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may not be effective

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earns 7-2 win

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Former Obama advisor closes FAS

By CATHERINE
PALMER

Asst. News & Features Editor

David Plouffe, the manager of U.S. President Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, headlined the final Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) event of the year, which was co-sponsored by the College Democrats.

Plouffe also served as assistant and senior advisor to the president from 2011 to 2013. Since 2014, he has been working in the private sector as vice president of policy and strategy at Uber.

"I think sometimes our campaigns can seem silly and small, and they're covered that way, for sure, by the media. But they're about massive things... Every direction a country, state, a city takes

SEE FAS, PAGE A4



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students, both smokers and non-smokers, are divided over whether Hopkins should join over 1,000 American colleges in becoming smoke-free.

University reevaluates campus smoking policy

By CATHERINE
PALMER

Asst. News & Features Editor

Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger has formed a committee to evaluate the smoking policy at the Homewood and Peabody campuses. The committee plans to either make the campuses smoke-free or to limit smoking to designated outdoor areas.

"We have heard loud and clear from students that they want us to examine this issue further—particularly with regard to the impact of secondhand smoke," Shollenberger wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It is standard practice throughout the United States for colleges and universities to ban smoking in buildings, including residence halls. Beyond that, a growing

number of campuses have gone 'smoke-free,' banning smoking everywhere on campus. In fact, this past August, the School of Public Health began prohibiting all tobacco products in its facilities and vehicles and discouraging their use on all outdoor campus grounds."

Shollenberger wrote that his committee will be drafting a report to be presented this summer to Robert C. Lieberman, the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Daniel Ennis, the senior vice president for finance and administration.

Barbara Schubert, the associate director for the Center for Health Education & Wellness (CHEW), and Fran Stillman, an associate professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, serve as committee co-chairs.

The rest of the committee is composed of faculty and staff from Homewood and Peabody, a graduate student and senior Danae Johnson, the president of Hopkins Kicks Butts (HKB), a student-led

SEE SMOKING, PAGE A4

Few attend focus group on sexual violence

By JACQUI NEBER
Staff Writer

The Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (SVAC) hosted a sparsely attended open focus group session on April 9 led by Title IX Coordinator and Associate Vice Provost Allison Boyle and SVAC undergraduate representative sophomore Nicholas Ulm.

Only three students attended the session. Boyle addressed the low attendance.

"I recognize that getting people to come to a room can be challenging. There are many reasons that people might not want to come to a meeting like this," Boyle said. "But

SEE SVAC, PAGE A5

MSE seeks student input on renovations

By JACQUI NEBER
Staff Writer

The Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Library will undergo structural and aesthetic renovations following the collection of student, faculty and administrative input.

According to the Sheridan Libraries' Director of Communications & Marketing Brian J. Shields, the original plan was to only update the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, but Shields said that simply renovating those aspects of the library would not be an effective use of time and money.

MSE still has the same architecture and appearance as it did when it was built in the 1960s.

"The HVAC is now 50 years old—it's the original HVAC system... Replacing that and leaving everything else intact

didn't make sense at all. This building was built for its time," Shields said. "When we looked to renovate, it would be really short-sighted

to just renovate and overlook everything else."

Winston Tabb, the dean of University libraries and museums, agreed with Shields on the decision to renovate the entire library.

"The heating and cooling system has been showing its 50-year-old age for some time; and that problem was exacerbated when we opened

the connection to Brody 3 years ago," Tabb wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"When the need for a new HVAC system was presented to the trustees' Capital Subcommittee, they wisely concluded that it would be a shame to spend a lot on a system and end up with a library that was still very much an artifact of the 1960's. So they have asked us to initiate a planning process that will meet future library needs."

SEE MSE, PAGE A5

"Replacing
[the HVAC]
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make sense."

— DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS
& MARKETING
BRIAN J. SHIELDS

Nelly arrested; concert in question

By ABBY BIESMAN
Staff Writer

The rapper Nelly, this year's Spring Fair headliner, was arrested on Saturday in Tennessee and charged with felony possession of drugs, simple possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. It has not yet been decided if he will still perform at Hopkins on April 24.

Nelly, whose legal name is Cornell Haynes, was arrested after his tour bus was pulled over and searched. Law enforcement officials found crystal methamphetamines, marijuana and several firearms.

Janet Kirsch, assistant director of student activities, shared information about the concert's status.

"As the Spring Fair and the HOP Advisor, I had a preliminary conversation with the Dean of Student Life [Terry Martinez] and security to make sure we identify any safety concerns," Kirsch said. "As of now, there is no final decision about the concert."

Student representatives of Spring Fair declined to comment.

Nelly's performance at Missouri State University on April 23 was cancelled. Auburn University has chosen to keep Nelly's scheduled concert for this Saturday.

Relay For Life raises \$38k to fight cancer

By ANNE
HOLLMULLER
Staff Writer

Following its signature annual event, JHU Relay For Life has raised about \$38,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

The fundraiser was held on the Keyser Quad from 3 p.m. on Friday until 3 a.m. on Saturday. This year's efforts raised marginally less than the \$43,000 raised last year at

this time, but the group will be accepting online donations until August.

Junior Kelly Chu, sophomore Daniel Dembner and senior Lauren Lipshutz, co-presidents of JHU Relay For Life, planned the main event, along with other events throughout the year. Chu originally joined JHU Relay For Life to gain insight into the planning that goes into a Relay event.

SEE RELAY, PAGE A5

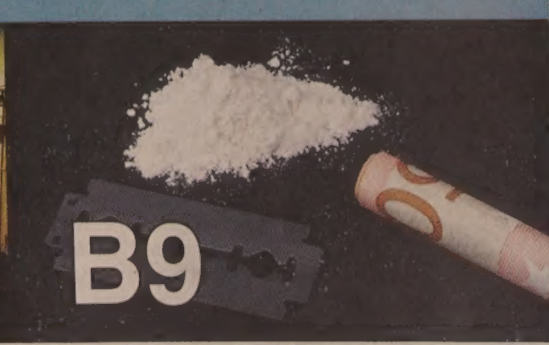
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NEWS & FEATURES

Sociology bus tour explores Baltimore

By **ASHLEY KIM**
Staff Writer

Sociology professor Matthew Crenson led a group of students to both modern and historic locations around Baltimore on Sunday, helping them to understand the history and significance of various landmarks and sights around the city.

Junior Eli Wallach organized the event in conjunction with the sociology department.

"We went to some very historic churches and cemeteries where we saw Edgar Allan Poe's grave," Wallach said. "We went through West Baltimore and saw the old homes of many important figures in the city's history and in the history of the U.S."

The participants of the tour viewed it as a learning experience.

"I learned a lot about the history of Baltimore, which I believe all Baltimoreans and students who go to school here should know," senior Benjamin Tsoi said.

He explained that the tour offers a new perspective on Baltimore.

"The first thing many new arrivals to Hopkins learn is where the 'good' and 'bad' neighborhoods are. It is important to know that the black-white dichotomy of Baltimore has deep historic roots tracing back to before the Civil War," Tsoi said. "The city had one of the largest free black populations, which ironically led the city to impose segregation earlier than most other sizable cities in the U.S."

Junior Victor Osio found the atmosphere of the tour to be immersive and conducive to learning.

"I think a small group allows students to really be more active and participatory by asking the professor questions and interacting amongst ourselves," Osio said.

Crenson discussed a wide time span of Baltimore's history, beginning with the War of 1812, part of which took place in Patterson Park in East Baltimore. Many aspects of the city were different in earlier times.

"We learned that the city used to dump its sewage into the harbor, and it gave Baltimore a very bad smell," Wallach said.

Wallach thought the event as a whole was successful, and he plans to organize the sociology bus tour again in the future.

"It was a great event, and I can't wait to do it again next year. Everyone should get to know this city, since it's a great city with an interesting and important history," Wallach said.

Tsoi advised students to participate in this experience as underclassmen.

"Don't wait until senior year — like myself — to deeply explore Baltimore. The city has a lot of history and amazing places and restaurants to visit," Tsoi said.

The tour began at 10 a.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m. It included a detour for lunch at Lexington Market, where the group ate crab cakes at Faidley Seafood.

Consulting firm executive reveals unconscious bias

By **SABRINA WANG**
Asst. News & Features Editor

The Women's Initiative for Social Equity (WISE) hosted Accenture, a consulting firm, to discuss unconscious bias in the workplace at Gertrude's restaurant on Tuesday.

"Understanding unconscious bias is a tool that everyone can use to be more effective," Adriana Sensenbrenner, sophomore co-organizer and WISE advisory board member, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

She described the need to recognize unconscious bias, which she defined as an innate characteristic in all humans, and the realization that it can be mitigated.

"Unfortunately, it is something that drives the disparity between men and women in the workplace," Sensenbrenner wrote.

The keynote speaker, Sara Abiusi, received an undergraduate degree from Hopkins in 1996, and she is the current Managing Director with Accenture's federal practice. As Accenture's technology leader for its U.S. Postal Service (USPS) account, Abiusi has worked on large-scale development projects to improve tracking for postal packages, including supply chain and high performance architectures.

"We wanted to select people who are good role models, but also engaged in the Hopkins community," Sensenbrenner wrote. "Each of these representatives is active during the Accenture recruiting

season. Sara Abiusi... is a woman with a successful career that all students can learn from. In her almost 20 years at Accenture, she has experienced unconscious bias and has developed strategies to address it."

In her presentation, Abiusi spoke about her working and personal experiences with unconscious bias.

"I'm here to talk to you about things we experience at the workplace. We're here today to learn about unconscious bias," Abiusi said. "If you leave with anything today, it's just awareness."

Abiusi also surveyed the audience members for their reactions and perceptions of several hypothetical scenarios.

"Imagine a woman: She's a senior at Hopkins. She grew up in Los Angeles, she's on the dean's list, she plays softball, she's a computer science major, she works part time in Levering... And she's pregnant," Abiusi said. "How many people imagined a Caucasian person with brown hair?"

More than half the audience members raised their hands.

Unsurprised, Abiusi explained that unconscious biases are implicit attitudes affected by cultural background and environment.

"Probably more important to you than the concept of unconscious bias is understanding your own unconscious bias," Abiusi said.

The alumni board of panelists, which included Emily Yeh, who graduated in 2010, Catherine

Rose, who graduated in 2010, Sakshée Pungalia, who graduated in 2006 and Beth Visneski, who graduated in 2013, also presented their own experiences in dealing with unconscious bias and discussed instances related not only to women, but also to men.

They discovered that certain tasks were given to members of each gender because of character traits inadvertently designated to a particular sex. One panelist related her reluctance to give a male employee tasks related to organization because of her perceptions of male personality traits, but she was eventually proven false.

It was an argument with which Sensenbrenner agreed.

"Ultimately, we would love for men and women to have an equal playing field, but it starts by recognizing our inherent responses," Sensenbrenner wrote.

Many in the audience, which consisted of both undergraduates and graduate students alike, thought the panel was eye-opening.

Stephanie Lau, a graduate student, was pleasantly surprised that the

discussion did not just cater to gender inequity.

"I thought it was a good event," Lau said. "When I first saw this event, I thought it was going to be focused solely on gender. I really like how the panelists brought the point that unconscious bias is not just gender — it could be so many other things I didn't really think about before."

Junior Rachel McCoy agreed that the event was enlightening.

"It's really great to see a company that emphasizes [awareness of unconscious bias]," McCoy said.

Accenture, a large firm with more than 23,000 employees, employs over 200 Hopkins alumni, according to Abiusi. She also stated that the company's distinguishing factor is its emphasis on training.

Although the discussion lasted two hours, Abiusi said the program consisted of only a small

segment of what employees are immersed in at the company.

"We did a very small segment," Abiusi said. "It depends on the content. Bits and pieces are there."

At Accenture, race and sexual orientation are also discussed.

Sensenbrenner hoped that the event would provide students with a basic understanding of the concept and raise awareness of unconscious bias.

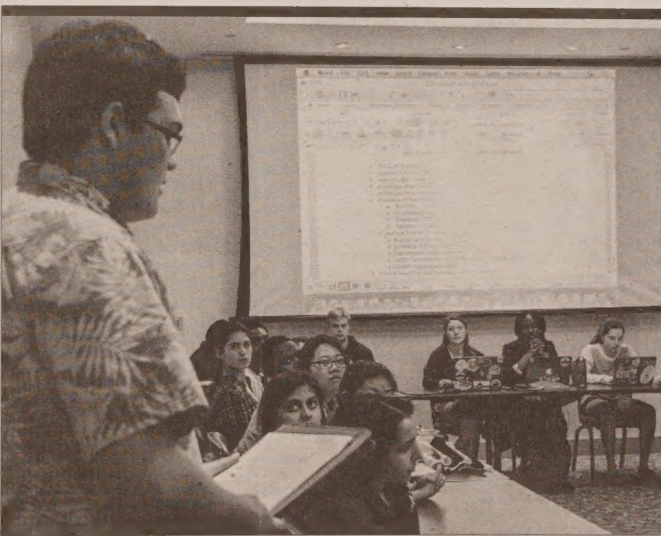
"As individuals become more aware, we hope that we see a shift in the Hopkins community," Sensenbrenner wrote. "Ideally, we would like the Hopkins community to embrace diversity and provide equal opportunities for men and women. As for the broader community, we would like Hopkins students to take what they know and share the knowledge that they have gained."



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sara Abiusi serves as the current Managing Director with Accenture's federal division.

SGA hears Judiciary change proposal, bans campus Chick-fil-A



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Justice of the Judiciary Tom Roeser addressed the SGA on constitutional changes.

By **WILL ANDERSON**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, The Student Government Association (SGA) Senate passed bills detailing changes to the Judiciary in a new draft constitution it is proposing, addressing the possibility of a Chick-fil-A ban on campus.

Members of the SGA Judiciary, the student government's judicial branch, came to the meeting to discuss changes to the Judiciary in the new draft constitution. Article V in the draft constitution would have subjected Judiciary decisions to an appeals process. However, Justice of the Judiciary Tom Roeser said in the board's prepared statement that the Judiciary should not

be subjected to the whims of student opinion.

"Public opinion can be as fluid as it is powerful," he said, quoting de Tocqueville. "To have a judiciary subject to referendum is like having no judiciary at all."

Though initially hesitant, Executive President Janice Bonsu came to voice her agreement with the Judiciary's objections to the proposed changes and instead favor compromise.

"There is room for flaws, and we're not all going to be perfect in our decisions. We're not parallel to the U.S. government and Judiciary," Bonsu said.

Bonsu referenced the Voice for Life (VFL) controversy from 2013, in which the SGA Senate refused to approve club status and funding for VFL, the pro-

life group on campus. The Judiciary ruled the club's disapproval unconstitutional on free speech grounds and ordered the Senate to approve the organization.

"I'm now thinking that two years ago when VFL came, there were a lot of students who would have come and said 'no' [to the approval]," Bonsu said.

Justice Dylan Cowit stated that the student body may not have the necessary constitutional knowledge to make the correct decision in a referendum.

"As SGA, we need to prevent discrimination, even if that student group is unpopular. To open up a constitution to the student referendum, that's even more alarming," Cowit said.

The compromise solution adopted by the Senate in its draft constitution creates an avenue of review that would require 15 percent of the undergraduate student body's urging to "revisit" the topic in question. The wording was changed from "appeal" to

"revisit," granting the Judiciary the final say with its judgements.

Another change with the new constitution is the changing the length of judicial terms from one year to the justice's entire remaining undergraduate career. The vote on the new constitution will happen next week, according to Bonsu.

The draft constitution will still need to be ratified by the student body before replacing the current document.

A bill that banned any future Chick-fil-A on campus was passed unanimously during the meeting. Chick-fil-A has become controversial in recent years because of public homophobic comments from the company's chief executive officer and the company's investment in homophobic initiatives. Members of the SGA were concerned that members of the LBGTQ community could suffer from discrimination.

"By passing this, we're taking a huge stance as an SGA and as a community," Junior Class Senator and Executive President-Elect Jason Plush said.

The meeting also covered topics including furniture in Levering Hall and low voter turnout.

A bill that funds massage chairs in Levering, sponsored by Freshman Class Senator Sarah Zappone, was passed unanimously as well. The SGA

will be responsible for the maintenance of the chairs, and they will be available for student use soon.

Members of the SGA also addressed the issue of low voter participation during the Executive Board election, citing lack of publicity and advertising for the election and the debate.

Sophomore Class Senator Jonathan "JB" Brown proposed that there should be physical polling stations on the Keyser Quad during the election window, as they would allow for easy and expedient voting.

"I think doing that for three or four days during voting period would be beneficial," Brown said.

Plush suggested that there should be a minimum 15 percent voter turnout to validate the election. The entire SGA was in agreement that a voting threshold was necessary to combat student apathy. This year's election turnout was 8.6 percent.

"At the root level, it's apathy. The elections are a time to shine," Senior Maxwell Dickey said.

Another bill passed during the meeting provided funding to the PUSH, an annual event that raises money for the United Services Organization, an organization that supports U.S. soldiers and their families. Last year, the PUSH raised approximately \$10,000. Phi Gamma Delta fraternity (FIJI) and Reserve Officer Training Corps will co-host the event.

NEWS & FEATURES

Hundreds attend annual Night Market fundraiser

By ALEX DRAGONE
Staff Writer

Students gathered in the Mattin Courtyard on Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. to get a taste of Taiwanese food and culture at the annual Night Market event, which was jointly hosted by the Taiwanese American Students Association (TASA) and the Taiwanese Student Association (TSA), an organization made up primarily of graduate students.

"We showcase the unique night market culture of Taiwan," junior Eric Ong, co-president of TASA, said.

In order to gain access to TASA's booths, students could buy one wristband for three dollars or two wristbands for five dollars. TSA's booths only accepted cash.

The market featured a wide array of foods, games and performances, and it was organized by a mixture of on- and off-campus groups.

"TASA itself cooked a variety of different [dishes], including braised pork rice, scallion pancakes [and] fried chicken," Ong said.

The Hong Kong Students Association (HKSA) and the Inter-Asian Council (IAC) also prepared food to sell at the event.

Junior April Lo said that she tried a wide variety of food at the event. "Braised pork with rice, tofu noodles, bubble tea,

more I don't remember. My favorites were Hong Kong style custard tarts from IAC and HKSA's fish balls. [I was] impressed IAC made the tarts themselves," Lo wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

To replicate the energetic atmosphere of a Taiwanese night market, a variety of performance groups were invited to attend the event. Some of the groups, like Chinese Lion Dance, SLAM Hip Hop Dance Group and the Eclectics, were student associations.

Students could also participate in a number of games and activities, including sumo wrestling while wearing sumo costumes, fortune telling, ring toss, Nerf gun battling and Taiwanese costume cosplay.

"I very much enjoyed the SLAM performance and watching the fun with the sumo suits," Lo wrote.

Ong credited two off-campus performers with bringing in large crowds.

"This year, with the help of IAC, we're able to get two very prominent Asian-American music performers, Awkwafina and Dumbfoundead," Ong said. "They dropped by Hopkins as part of their 'Fresh off the Books' tour. So they performed about an hour. It brought a lot of audience, not [just] Hopkins people, but people around Baltimore who were just fans of these two Asian performers. So we had a huge turnout."



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Student and professional performers took part in the Night Market.

Other performers included student artist DJ ManBearPimp, and a group called 7th Grade Band.

"[7th Grade Band] is basically people in their thirties... They're just a very small, local band," Ong said.

The proceeds from purchases of TASA's wristbands went to LOSHASA Charity, a Chinese and Taiwanese health charity.

"Their mission is to build a hospital in China to help people in rural areas," Ong said. "And now in Taiwan they have dental clinics... Annually they go to one of the mountains in Taiwan and help aboriginal kids with their annual dental checkups. And they also visit the different orphanages in Taiwan."

Ong estimated that over 900 people attended the three-hour-long event.

"It is a very huge success," Ong said. "It is one of the most successful night market experiences in the three years I've been here. At least for TASA's side, we had more than 560 people that came by, because of the wristband count. In total, we raised over \$1,000 for LOSHASA Charity, which is a big increase from last year. Last year, we had about 440 people that came by, and we donated about \$800. So this year we were very glad that, with all the events going on, we still had a huge turnout... TSA's side had a pretty good turnout too, so I would say about 900 even."

Hopkins affiliates release Promotious app

By ABBY BIESMAN
Staff Writer

Promotious, a mobile app founded by two recent Hopkins graduates and a current senior that offers discounts for Charles Village restaurants, launched on April 9.

Unlike other services that offer discounts for local businesses, Promotious uses iBeacon, a new Bluetooth-powered technology that allows businesses to interact with customers when they are near the stores' locations.

Promotious will send users push notifications if they walk by a restaurant that serves a type of food the user enjoys.

"Let's say you're walking down the street, and you see that you like burgers," senior Sunyan Lee, Promotious co-founder, said. "You'll get a push notification on your phone based on your preferences. Algorithms will alert you if we think that you like burgers. Without you ever having to pull out your phone, we could give you notifications about what you might potentially want to walk into."

Although the app will alert users if they're near a restaurant they might enjoy, it doesn't provide information about users to specific restaurants.

"It doesn't track your location or anything," Lee said. "What happens is as soon as you walk in front of the business, each of the businesses have a little beacon, and it doesn't waste your Bluetooth, your battery or your data."

The three founders came up with the idea while trying to figure out what to do one evening.

"After a super long day working in the computer science lab, we were super tired, and we wanted to

chill out," Promotious co-founder Stanley Ho, who received a masters degree in computer science from Hopkins in 2014, said. "We walked around Charles Village trying to find a place, but we couldn't really find any promotions or anything going on. So we thought, 'Hey, why don't we ask the businesses about their experience with platforms, and why aren't they using them?'"

The founders approached local businesses, who told them that they weren't satisfied with existing discount services.

"The businesses said the experience was bad because it took too long to release a promotion," Ho said. "We had to give a really big cut of the revenue."

The founders hope that Hopkins students will want to use their app because it allows users to save money near campus.

"Ideally, [we would target] anyone who wants to get cheap deals for their meals or other goods," Promotious co-founder Yiran Zhang, who received a masters degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Hopkins in 2014, said. "Right now, for the Hopkins neighborhood, we are targeting mainly the students."

The app took about three weeks to actually create. However, additional time was needed to fine-tune its elements and features. One of Ho's friends, a designer, helped the team with their process, and they also performed many customer interviews. Because the app is so new, the company is trying to spread the word.

The Promotious team has also hired two undergraduate interns to help market the app.

"The image that we

want is one that the app is for local business and reaches college kids," Matthew Fraser, an intern for the company, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It is a little difficult because most of the restaurants believe that their way of promoting deals is the best, but it's not really reaching enough students that would purchase the deals if they knew the deals existed. We are trying to show them that this will only benefit them."

Ho also said it was difficult to convince local businesses to sign on with them.

"We're beta testing Charles Village," Ho said. "Since we're Hopkins students, we understand and we get connections to Hopkins demographics more, so it's just us approaching the businesses actively trying to set up a meeting with them. But it's actually much harder than expected, trying to meet the business owners."

In the process of building the brand, Promotious has made six verbal agreements with local businesses; two of those businesses, Chocolatea and Masala Kitchen, already have active discounts on the app.

"Obviously, we want as many downloads as possible," Lee said. "We were aware that we only have two businesses listed, so that's something we're working on."

The founders have realized through their experience speaking with business owners how their app, in particular, is unique as opposed to some other large promotion platforms. Ho commented how all the business owners get a generally free voice in the promotions they choose to offer. The Promotious founders keep in constant touch with business owners to help fig-

ure out what types of deals to post on the app.

"If the beta test shows positive traction or potential promise, we'll probably expand to Mount Vernon because there's so many restaurants and bars and everything, and we talked to the businesses and a large chunk of their revenue is from the students from University of Baltimore," Ho said.

On Friday, the company held a launch party at PJ's Pub offering free beer and wings for anyone who downloaded the app. Those not able to download the app, which is only available for iPhones, were encouraged to like the app's Facebook's page and help promote the app on social media.

"They had free fries and wings, and when they hit 100 downloads, we all got a free drink, a beer or a glass of wine," senior Rachel Davis said.

Overall, students voiced positive opinions about the app and its existence.

"I'd definitely be interested in downloading the app," freshman Molly Brambil said. "It would be awesome to get discounts in Charles Village, especially because a lot of [the stores] are overpriced because they know we'll pay."

Freshman Christian Cholith said he thinks the app will be more useful for people who are visitors to the area.

"I think if our [restaurant] options were greater and I had more I needed, like some kind of tool or variable that let me decide where I was going to eat, that would be useful, but my options are so limited that something like that isn't going to make a big impact in my decision," Cholith said.

Zaitchik researches climate vulnerability

By ABBY BIESMAN
Staff Writer

Benjamin Zaitchik, a professor in the Global Environmental Change and Sustainability (GECS) department, focuses his teaching and research on dealing with the consequences of climate change.

"Most of my research is on climate vulnerability and resilience," Zaitchik said. "So that means climate change, but also seasonal forecasting and being able to cope with stresses and shocks to agricultural and health systems."

At Hopkins, he teaches many upper level classes. Each year, he teaches a course called Present and Future Climate for undergraduate seniors and graduate students. The course is a survey of how climate systems work.

Some of his courses combine environmental and policy studies. He co-teaches a course called Climate Science and Policy, which is a larger survey course and attracts all sorts of undergraduate students. Next semester, he will be teaching a course at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) that will focus on food, energy and water.

His interest in the environment started many years ago, when he was growing up in the 1980s. He witnessed events like the 1983-1985 Ethiopian famine, among other global environmental crises. These events exposed him to issues of sustainability regarding water, food, health and the environment.

His interest in environmental studies developed over time. In high school, Zaitchik worked with plants and landscaping, and he graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology.

"So then, from there, one thing led to the next," Zaitchik said. "After undergrad, I lived for a year in the Negev desert in Israel doing desert ecology research."

The program he attended in Israel was associated with an Israeli university and is widely regarded as one of the best places in the world to study both ancient and modern desert agriculture. Not only was he attracted to the program, but he was also excited about the opportunity to be in the Middle East.

Before going to Israel, Zaitchik had largely been interested in doing work outside and in greenhouses. After working in Israel, some of his views changed.

"When I got there, I got really interested in how the broader environment is a system, and how things like deserts or stressful environments in general, influence plants and really influence communities and people as well," Zaitchik said.

"It was also a global experience

because a lot of people, especially from East Africa, India [and] Western China, come to that place to get trained in desert management, so that was a really great experience for me."

Zaitchik received his masters from Cornell University and earned his Ph.D. from Yale University. He worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) center in Greenville, Md. while studying the use of satellite data and climate models to address water resource issues. He then worked on a fellowship as a foreign affairs officer for the Department of State.

As Zaitchik's work developed, he did some work with the United Nations. He received some of these opportunities through previous experiences.

"Through that work and then through the relations I've got through those projects that I either applied for or joined in on, I think you end up just meeting people and developing a reputation," Zaitchik said. "It's a small world of people thinking about water, climate and sustainability. Once you're doing something over there, you tend to find other parts and get involved."

Some of his work with the U.N. was related to his previous experiences.

"For the State Department, I was doing international climate negotiations, and that's the U.N. forum," Zaitchik said. "I did a lot of negotiations within the U.N."

Zaitchik is still currently involved with U.N.-related research.

"We have one project that is sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and that project is looking at water resource development in the Tigris-Euphrates Basin," Zaitchik said. "And so that's the one thing directly with the U.N. that we're doing. Then there's other things where I interact with the U.N. We have other kinds of related projects in East Africa, the Nile Basin [and] South Asia that all have U.N. peripheral partners — UNESCO, etc. — but nothing directly in the U.N."

Several of the projects in which Zaitchik is involved are located across the country and world, and they resultantly often include frequent travel. His research has taken him to places like Syria and Morocco.

"It used to be a lot, and I have a kid now, so I try to travel a little less," Zaitchik said. "I'll go to Ethiopia a couple times a year, occasionally stop in another country in East Africa while I'm there. We have North Africa and Middle East Research."



EPJ:JHU
Zaitchik has experience with U.N. climate negotiations.

NEWS & FEATURES

Campaign manager rehashes Obama's wins



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Plouffe was the closing speaker of the 2015 Foreign Affairs Symposium.

FAS, FROM A1
flows back to an election," Plouffe said.

Plouffe opened by discussing his first foray into politics. During the summer after his junior year, he worked for Democrat Samuel Beard's 1987 campaign for the U.S. Senate.

"We were big underdogs," Plouffe said. "There was some polling done in the race — we're down 20, 25 [points]. We closed really upset, and we won a huge ungratified in the primary election, but in one precinct in Delaware, they had given us too many votes. It was a big error. Instead of 28, they gave us 2,828... So the State Election Board said, 'Actually, you're now ahead by three votes, so we're going to have a recount.' And we lost by 71."

According to Plouffe, this campaign actually strengthened his commitment to politics.

"If I hadn't worked on that campaign, there's no way I would've stuck in politics," Plouffe said. "What it taught me was, 'Hey, if any of us on that campaign... had worked a little bit harder, been a little more creative, we could have found 72 votes.'"

Plouffe began to work for the campaign of then-State Senator Obama for U.S. Senate in 2003. According to Plouffe, the race was set to determine Obama's political career.

"If he lost that race, then he was just going to be a lawyer or do something else," Plouffe said. "His wife Michelle Obama had kind of run out of patience with him... He was the longest of longshots in that race — had very little institutional support, had very little money. And through running a terrific grassroots campaign... we captured people's imagination in Illinois at that moment."

Plouffe said the result was "an absolute blowout."

"And what Obama had at the very end of that race was amazing momentum, so he ends up winning the general election, a fairly easy election," Plouffe said.

At the time, Plouffe said he had not even considered Obama running for the presidency.

"There wasn't a single one of us who worked for him 2004 who thought he was going to run for president at all, much less anytime soon," he said.

According to Plouffe, Obama began thinking about running for president after the 2006 mid-term elections.

"We... explained what a campaign would be like in very honest [terms] — how strong Hillary Clinton was, that he had a great life and he was going to give that up," Plouffe said. "He had young kids, he'd never seen them, he'd probably lose, he could be embarrassed. At the end of the day, the

way he put it was, 'Sometimes, you can't choose the timing, the timing chooses you.' And he said, 'I think I have something distinctive to offer. I have no idea if I'll win. I probably won't. But if I spend another six or eight years in Washington, I may not have that to offer. I may become too much of the institution and less fresh thinking.'"

Plouffe said that Obama's victory in 2008 was largely due to a shift in the electorate.

"We would have lost almost every primary and caucus we entered if the average democratic elector had turned out, because Hillary Clinton was strong and was the party establishment," Plouffe said. "Why did we win? Because tons of young people and tons of people who weren't very political got involved."

According to Plouffe, Obama was reelected in 2012 due to another shift in the electorate.

"What was remarkable about it was turnout amongst people under the age of 30 was higher than it was in 2008," he said.

Plouffe said many would find this surprising because young people seemed to be enthusiastic about voting in 2008, but he explained that it had a lot to do with Obama's opponent in each election.

"The difference between Obama and Romney on social issues, on foreign policy issues, was so profound — much more so than it was with McCain — so that what we saw with young people was less sort of giddy enthusiasm," Plouffe said. "It was more sort of steely determination."

Plouffe also discussed the role of the economy in the 2012 election.

"When we won reelection, we were defying fate, history, all the political wisdom... which was that when the economy is that weak, you simply cannot get reelected," Plouffe said.

Plouffe also explained his decision to transition into the private sector.

"I had worked in politics my whole life... Once Obama won reelection... got through the inauguration... got through the State of the Union, it was time for me to leave... I had never worked in a company full-time," Plouffe said.

Sophomore Angela Wang said she came to the event to learn more about the backstories behind Obama's campaigns.

"I'm a big fan of Obama, and I thought it would be really cool to hear what his campaign manager had to say, as far as an insider's perspective on how the campaign worked, and why he decided to work with [Obama] for so long," Wang said.

University debates stance on smoking

SMOKING, FROM A1
anti-tobacco coalition.

HKB initiated the push for a smoke-free campus by approaching the SGA with a proposal in 2013. In response, the University conducted a survey to determine student opinions on smoking.

According to Erin Yun, the deputy to the vice provost for student affairs, the survey showed that although most undergraduates approved of going smoke-free, most graduate students at Homewood opposed the idea.

Freshman Robert Lee, a smoker, said he doesn't think the campus needs to be smoke-free.

"Quite frankly, no one has to smoke, and no one has to stand beside me while I smoke," Lee said.

Freshman Holly Tice does not smoke but said she would oppose a ban.

"I think smoking's bad in general, but I think people have a right to smoke outside," Tice said. "It is a private university, and I think smokers should be able to smoke outside on campus."

According to Yun, the University does not currently have a standard policy regarding outdoor smoking.

"The policies that I've seen... [say] that there's no smoking whatsoever in any University buildings," Yun said. "The president, deans and/or directors may also designate, with appropriate signage, certain outdoor areas, especially entranceways, smoke-free."

Schubert does not believe the University enforces policies about smoking in designated areas.

"It's certainly not consistent, I don't think, across the board," Schubert said.

Yun said the committee will examine enforcement policies at other schools for reference.

"One of the things that we'll be working on is benchmarking against other universities that have gone smoke-free to look at what types of enforcement mechanisms they have in place," Yun said.

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation (ANRF) website, there are at least 1,543 smoke-free campuses in the U.S. This number includes 1,043 tobacco-free schools, which explicitly ban all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco.

George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C. is a smoke-free campus.

The University of Maryland and Towson University are also smoke-free campuses. American University is a tobacco-free campus.

At Towson and American, violators of the universities' smoke-free policies are subject to disciplinary action. Additionally, Towson faculty and staff are subject to a \$75 fine, which they can contest.

Yun stressed that whatever policy is put in place would have to accommodate all members of the Hopkins community.

"This is a process where we have to make sure that all our constituencies are cared for and supported as we go through this," Yun said.

Alain Joffe, director of the Student Health & Wellness Center, believes that the University should go smoke-free for health reasons.

"If we follow the lead of the hospital and the School of Medicine in making buildings and the campus a smoke-free campus," Joffe said. "I think hopefully that will be an incentive for people, who are still smoking, to quit."

He believes there are more student smokers than faculty and staff smokers.

"I don't have any hard data," Joffe said. "My guess would be that it's probably a higher percentage of students if you include students who label themselves as casual smokers or social smokers — I don't smoke regularly, but if I'm out with friends I might have a cigarette, or at exam times I smoke, but I don't smoke a lot other times."

He said that the center is equipped with resources to help students quit.

"I would say the majority of students who do smoke either... say they consider themselves just social smokers and... don't foresee themselves smoking beyond college," Joffe said. "Or you have students who say, 'Yeah, I know I should quit, but this is a very stressful time for me. School's really hard.'"

Joffe said health care workers at the center can provide students with alternative options for handling stress.

"For people who say smoking helps them relax, the question is whether they could achieve the same end by using a nicotine replacement product where you're still getting the nicotine, so you don't go through withdrawal, but at least you're not getting all the smoke into your lungs," Joffe said. "Everybody's a little bit different, and there isn't a single method that works for everyone, so we try to meet the smoker where he or she is, in terms of how they think they can best accomplish it."

Jackie Ferguson, who graduated from Hopkins in 2012, also believes that Homewood should go smoke-free. During her senior year, she conducted a study to evaluate whether or not there was secondhand smoke present in buildings on campus, specifically AMR I and II, Gilman Hall and the Milton S. Eisenhower Library (MSE).

The study, funded by a Provost Undergraduate Research Award, was her honors thesis for the public health studies department. She is currently trying to publish it.

"What we wanted to do is see if because of the undefined smoking policy on the Homewood campus... [smoke got] inside the dorms and inside the Student Health and Wellness center," Ferguson said.

Ferguson measured airborne nicotine in both locations.

"Nicotine is specific to cigarettes," Ferguson said. "You will not find another product, except for e-cigarettes now, that will release nicotine into the air, so it's a definitive marker of secondhand smoke. So we [had] correlations for how much air nicotine there is per secondhand smoke, or

really, smoke in general, produced by cigarettes."

Ferguson placed multiple monitors outside the entrances of all the buildings as well as at various locations further inside the buildings. She also placed monitors inside the rooms of eight resident advisors (RA) in the AMRs, who volunteered to participate in the study.

"For the AMRs, I thought that was particularly interesting because these are student bedrooms. They don't have an option to leave," she said. "It seemed like something that Hopkins should be protecting its students from."

Ferguson said that 87.5 percent of the monitors registered air nicotine.

"That was pretty interesting because the AMRs have no air conditioning," she said. "So the windows were open, people were smoking in the courtyards, and then [we] were getting evidence that there was secondhand smoke in their rooms."

Ferguson said she was particularly interested in measuring levels of air nicotine in MSE.

"One of the reasons why I didn't like studying the library was because every time you tried to enter the library, you actually had to go through a cloud of smoke," she said. "Walking through the library, it occurred to me that smoke immediately outside the doors, you can still smell the smoke inside."

I wanted to really quantify how far it was getting in." Ferguson said she measured levels in MSE in the winter.

"I chose winter specifically because I wanted to see [what it was like during] finals, when people were smoking right outside and when the occupancy of the library was the highest," Ferguson said.

According to Ferguson, in addition to the aboveground M and Q Levels, the four lower levels of the library that are underground and windowless picked up significant levels of air nicotine. Contrary to what Ferguson had expected, D Level, the level farthest below ground, had higher levels of air nicotine than the other underground levels.

"Since there's no safe

level of secondhand smoke, we recommend the University to make Homewood a smoke-free campus," Ferguson said. "Despite the enforcement of an indoor nonsmoking policy, the ability to smoke directly outside of buildings causes smoke to seep into the buildings through entryways, windows and ventilation systems."

Ferguson finds it strange that the medical campus is smoke-free while Homewood is not.

"When you're trying to make a campus smoke-free, it's almost easier when the campus has distinct boundaries," Ferguson said. "The medical campus has public roads going through it; not all the buildings immediately around the medical campus are owned by Hopkins... You would think that the Homewood campus would be easier to make a smoke-free campus."

Yun said she is unsure of a specific reason why Homewood is not already smoke-free.

Ferguson believes that e-cigarettes should be included in any kind of smoke-free policy the University may implement.

"If you have people who are smoking but then use e-cigarette cessation devices, it's good," Ferguson said. "But what we're concerned about is non-smokers or people who don't smoke a lot transitioning to e-cigarettes and smoking more. When you do smoke an e-cigarette, you do aerosolize that nicotine in it, and it does settle everywhere... So the best approach, really, for everyone's health is just to do a tobacco-free campus, which is cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, everything. And that way, you're not stigmatizing a particular group."

GW and American include e-cigarettes in their smoke-free and tobacco-free policies, respectively. Of the 1,543 smoke-free campuses referenced by the ANRF, 633 do not allow e-cigarettes.

According to Schubert, the committee will assess whether or not e-cigarettes should be part of a smoke-free policy if the University chooses to implement one.

Yun explained the committee's policy priorities.

"We're a leader in the health care field," she said. "We need to figure out how we can align our policy with our institutional reputation, but also need to do that in a way that we're being very thoughtful about all of our students."

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NEWS & FEATURES

Relay balances solemnness with celebration

RELAY, FROM A1

"I started participating in Relay For Life my junior year of high school, but I didn't join the planning committee until I came to Hopkins — so my freshman year — and I've been involved since," Chu said. "Junior year, I did it in honor of my friend's dad, who was just diagnosed with lung cancer, so we all made a team and... supported her and her family. And I continued in college because I wanted to kind of see how it was on the planning side and administrative side as opposed to just being a participant who just shows up. I wanted to do more."

Co-President Daniel Dembner became a part of JHU Relay For Life due to his own experiences as a cancer survivor. Like Chu, Dembner first got involved in Relay for Life as a high school student.

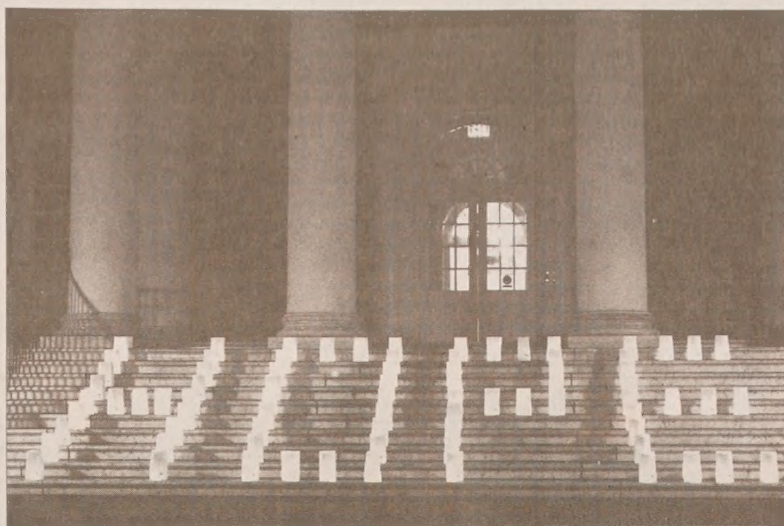
"When I came to Hopkins, I decided I would try and get more involved in some planning," he said. "I am a survivor, so after that I decided to try and join and do a lot to help with supporting various organizations related to cancer research."

Victoria Berges, a sophomore who attended the event, said she was touched by the sense of community among the event's attendees and by the hope and positivity that the event inspired.

"I think it's a really great cause, and cancer is something that pervades our society in particular. Seeing people breaking their glow sticks really puts into perspective how many people have had cancer touch their lives very personally," Berges said. "My grandmother died of cervical cancer, which is still a very emotional thing to think about, but when I'm somewhere like Relay, I try to think of the bigger picture and how an illness like this is much bigger than my personal experience. It's humanity's struggle, so being somewhere like Relay really makes me feel like I'm supporting the bigger picture, which is something that is proactive and positive rather than nostalgic."

Chu feels that the planning of the event, which took place throughout the school year, was a rewarding challenge.

"It's definitely really good to kind of see



NANCY KIM/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

As part of Relay for Life, participants arranged lanterns to spell out "HOPE" on the steps of Gilman.

how much work gets put into an event, because if you're just a participant, you show up that day, everything's set up, it looks great, the quad looks all decorated and the event runs smoothly, but behind the scenes, there's a lot of work," she said. "Right after the event ends, you start planning for the next year, so it's just year-round planning and organizing."

Chu described the three concurrent aims of a Relay for Life event.

"The motto for Relay For Life... is celebrate, remember and fight back," she said.

The first portion of Friday's event involved a survivor dinner, which was designed to celebrate life. Cancer survivors then complete the first lap of the relay race. Around 9 p.m., the luminaria ceremony, which is designed to remember victims of

cancer, began.

"That's really where we remember those who have passed away or those who are currently fighting. It's a really somber, solemn ceremony... Every participant has a glow stick, and they'll break it, so the whole quad is lit up by glowsticks, and we have these white paper bags that people purchase to dedicate to anyone who's been affected by cancer. So it's more... somber, solemn, than the previous few hours, where it's been more about celebration," Chu said.

Dembner described the end of the Relay for Life event, when its participants return to celebrating life and survival.

"It's about just spending the night raising money to fight back. Music comes back on... It kind of gets a bit more upbeat, because that's what it's

about; it's about celebrating and fighting back as well as remembering those we lost."

Berges enjoyed the atmosphere at the event and said she felt inspired by the personal strength of those present.

"We're here to be positive and raise as much money as we can to make a difference in people's lives' really made me realize that this event was celebrating the people afflicted by cancer's life, not mourning over their death," Berges said.

The money raised by this event directly benefits the American Cancer Society. Hope Lodge, one program sponsored by the American Cancer Society, has a Baltimore branch that committee members of JHU Relay for Life visit once a month. When they visit, the club members cook dinner for cancer patients.

Plans begin for MSE Library Renovations

MSE, FROM A1

Shields said that student input will drive the decisions for renovating the library. To do so, design teams will be looking to discover user behaviors and preferences for ideal study spaces. The first step in this process was the creation of a comprehensive survey that has already been filled out by 1,100 undergraduates.

The survey includes specific questions about students' opinions on the current state of the library, as well as questions about their preferred study habits and whether they prefer the study spaces in Brody Learning Commons (BLC) to those in MSE.

According to Shields, the feedback from the survey will be helpful to the future of the project. He identified a potential challenge in the fact that the project doesn't have a projected start date.

"We're engaging with different organizations to bring people in and tell them where we're going. A challenge is to engage people in something that doesn't have a start date. But people have been really responsive and candid," Shields said.

Undergraduates' potential concerns about the renovations could include how the new library will fit into the existing architecture of the Homewood campus. Freshman Mia Berman expressed her opinions on the library's current and future appearance.

"I don't think MSE is really representative of the look of the Hopkins campus," Berman said. "Especially looking at it from the Charles Street side, I think it could be made to look more cohesive."

Shields said that although the University hasn't decided on a new design aesthetic for MSE Library, bringing in more natural light to study spaces is a main design prerogative. Shields said that this is a challenge because much of the building is underground.

Shields said that contrary to the myth that is sometimes told on campus tours, MSE's descending levels were not built because the building could not be taller than Gilman Hall. Rather, Shields said, the building was built to its current height so it would not dwarf the Homewood House.

Tabb also said that the design project will reflect the more modern, collaborative studying mindset of the student body. Following the first student survey, design teams will be thinking of more ways to collect student preferences and ideas. The collaborative measures the University used to design the BLC will be revisited in the design of MSE.

"Simply put, what we hope to do through the MSE renovation is to create the kinds of studying, learning and collaborative spaces appropriate for the 21st century, not the 20th!" Tabb wrote.

Only three students attend sexual violence discussion

SVAC, FROM A1

my hope is that by offering avenues for feedback that might help in policy."

Boyle opened the floor to questions after briefly explaining SVAC's position on the current campus dialogue surrounding sexual assault and violence. She said that a new sexual violence policy went into effect on campus in October. Since then, the SVAC board has received feedback from students on how the policy changes have affected them.

Boyle emphasized that

one of the biggest themes she's seen in the feedback is that students want more transparency. In response, SVAC is working on creating a single policy-focused document that is more accessible to students. The document will encompass the basics of the University's policies for responding to reports of sexual violence.

"[Policy] is very legalistic, but with that said, we want to make sure that it's easily understood by everyone in the community," Boyle said.

School of Medicine

student Jenny Wen asked questions addressing how Homewood's campus policy will extend to other University campuses. Boyle responded by saying that SVAC will face challenges in implementing policy regardless of the location of sexual violence and said that parity — which she defined as equity and similarity in the handling of comparable cases — is important to her and the rest of SVAC.

"One thing I've heard from students is an urging for parity. Depending on what school you're in, there can be several layers of appeal and review," Boyle said.

Ulm expanded on the discussion of parity by explaining that many different cases can come to the board's attention, such as issues between students or between students and teachers. He said that it is the board's responsibility to review cases in a comparable fashion.

"There is backlash that could happen if there are differences between [handling the cases]," Ulm said.

The focus group also addressed the possible creation of a panel to oversee cases of sexual violence. Boyle, Ulm and Wen focused on the possible inclusion of students in the panel, and whether students would feel comfortable having peers review their cases.

Boyle said that some students have come to her and explained having students on the panel would make them uncomfortable, whereas others would feel better

knowing their peers had a say in policy implementation. Regardless of the makeup of the panel, Boyle emphasized that each panel member would be well-trained.

"Regardless of what the makeup of the panel is, wherever we land on this issue, there will be training for whoever presides on the panels," Boyle said.

Boyle clarified SVAC's responsibilities when it comes to handling sexual assault and violence cases. The Sexual Violence Advisory Committee does not conduct hearings. Rather, they conduct investigations and make factual findings, which are reported to the relevant dean's office.

This process varies between university campuses. The panel also raised questions about how hearings of sexual violence cases will influence the University's final decision and about how transparent the administration needs to be regarding sensitive cases.

"Anyone that's been following this issue for the last year is acutely aware that transparency is a theme that's important to students," Boyle said.

Wen specifically asked about what changes were made to sexual violence policy in October. According to Boyle, changes that were enacted include the definition of sexual assault, which was expanded to include stalking and relationship violence, appeals covered under the policy, expansion on the definition of consent and medical sup-

port and a change in the expected timeline for fact gathering after a report has been filed: A case should now be resolved 60 days after reporting. The office previously tried to resolve cases within 90 days.

Boyle was asked about the purpose of the focus group following the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) investigative visit to Hopkins.

"I want to be perfectly clear — I cannot speak to what OCR wanted to accomplish with its former focus groups," Boyle said. "We are under investigation, and part of OCR's focus is to conduct those focus groups with various people. What I and the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee want, as we're working to compile our recommendations for the provost, we want additional recommendations from the community."

Ulm corroborated Boyle's point.

"We're trying to encourage students to give recommendations on the policy that they wouldn't normally know about. Students are saying the policy is vague. This is a chance for them to give input and say, 'This is what we want to change,'" Ulm said.

Boyle explained that SVAC will continue to hold similar discussions in the future and continue to work with the Hopkins community in implementing change to how the University responds to sexual violence and assault.

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The challenges of the modern-day feminist



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Many look at Gloria Steinem as the leader of modern feminism.

Everyone's favorite f-word is having a moment of limelight and galore. Ideally, we would all celebrate by reading some Woolf, waving flags with "We can do it!" or "Votes for women!" feeling beautifully independent or independently beautiful, but there are some issues to tackle first.

Apparently, many women feel like they don't need modern feminism: all is fair in the land of casual ignorance. Others take it to the extreme and allegedly take bubble baths in the tears of our noble male counterparts.

What does it mean to be a modern feminist in its practical-personal sense? Should we all stop shaving and start performing Bechdel tests on our favorite movies? Or is it enough to have an engineering career? Let's discuss the matters of gender, feminism and, ultimately, humanity.

The Lipstick Debate and Media Revolution

Is it fine to wear a lot of makeup and not a lot of clothes in an attempt to seduce men (or "a man")? Of course it is, says the third-wave feminist. Is it okay to do so in an attempt to express yourself? Yep, it's all good, says the third-wave feminist.

But then the radical feminist interrupts: The second cause is superior to the first one, because the reason you want to impress men is that they have the power of the planet Earth. But what about her power? If he finds her attractive, she has the power,

right? Well, she shouldn't need to be sexually attractive to get the power.

Female attractiveness is greatly exaggerated in importance. My mother usually makes sure my suitors are smart, funny and kind and that my brother's girlfriends are pretty. How boring. Don't get me wrong, we all engage in objectification. Sometimes when this pale, thin and tall senior walks by, I gaze longingly after him and think, "I would," too, but hey, I don't see attractive men selling me products all day, every day.

As famous actors get older, their partners in movies get younger. Female youth and beauty cult in the media and, so, in life needs to stop. And for this we need more feminist screenwriters/directors. Become one, girls! There's a revolution waiting to happen.

Think about all the trouble girls go through to look good. Primer, foundation, concealer, bronzer, mascara, lipstick, nail polish, healthy eating/calorie awareness, shoes you can't properly walk in, hair straightening, hair removal, etc. Is it un-feministic to do so? Again, no.

What's un-feministic is a girl's possible insecurity she has when she goes without all of these things. You need to ask if you can accept yourself without looking sexually attractive and if your

own opinion is the most important one. Because it should be.

Pie or Pi

All women love pies: apple pies, cherry pies and, of course, mathematical pis. Just kidding — not all, but some. I have come to anticipate the look of disbelief and newfound respect in people's eyes when I tell them my major: Applied Math.

It is understandable — we can't just make-believe a world where my classes are not dominated by men. Yet feminism has done its job. If you had the choice to be in Applied Math, you just didn't like it, and the reason you didn't like it is not because you were expected not to like it. Can you follow my logic? I'm sure you can. None of those "women-cannot-logic" sitcom myths.

So, as feminists, how should we battle the stereotypes? By being in engineering and being awesome at it, too. For example, Maryam Mirzakhani recently won the Fields Medal (the Nobel prize for math) for the first time. It seems like she has done more for feminism than anyone dedicating his/her life to "raising awareness about women in engineering."

Gender Trouble

No, but can we talk about women's rights before talking about women? What is gender? One of the main points of third-wave feminism is inclusivity. It has elements of queer theory and men's rights activism, includes transgender people and those of non-binary genders, speaks for people of color, etc., thus turning feminism into this all-encompassing spokesperson for Human Equality. Ultimately, and as a tendency, the world goes from natural to artificial and then back again. Erasure of the social construct of gender is a part of going back to natural, but "new natural."

According to rather over-simplified Judith Butler, gender is performative. Try it; it's fun. Dress like a man, hide the hair, look

grave and confident in a photo and voilà — you may just start feeling attracted to yourself. Just kidding! (I guess. And some wouldn't need to change genders to feel like that.) So, we are not attracted to "sexes," we're attracted to superficial "genders," and people can be any gender or non-gender they want. In fact, we can invent a third gender or a fourth one independent of genitalia.

Sadly, the world we live in operates in majorities, so it is very heteronormative. Target markets of my copywriting class are still either female or male, the gender associations and links are still present, and maybe the destruction of these is too ambitious of a goal.

Instead, listen to a Campus quote:

"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion."

Try ignoring gender for a while in your mind. See only humans. Mix up the hes and shes and don't apologize. This is where feminism is headed.

Being Human

The message of anti-feminists is the end goal of feminism. They say: "I already don't see gender. Maybe the reason most politicians are male is because they just happen to be male. Maybe the reason most protagonists and assumed audiences are male is because they just happen to be male." However, we must remember that just because a person has reached a point of gender irrelevance doesn't mean that the society has reached that point.

If women are sexy damsels in distress in 10 movies, it may be a coincidence. If women make up about 20 percent of the U.S. Congress for a few years, it may be a coincidence. But if it is a constant, not a variable, it means feminism is still necessary and significant. Personally, we may see humans before we see females/males, but the world doesn't. Just like personally, we may not understand murderers or rapists, but they do exist. We must remember that the society as a whole is always lagging behind individuals in its views.

Was disqualification the ethical response?

In this column I will attempt to answer ethical questions that you, the readers, email me. You can direct your questions to jhuethics@gmail.com. I am in no way an expert on ethics, but I enjoy thinking and talking about it, and I'll do my best to answer your questions in a reasonable and straightforward manner.

We all know about the recent SGA election controversy. If you don't, the story can be summarized as one candidate for VP winning by a landslide, but then being disqualified due to campaign violations. Was this disqualification a fair ruling?

In this response I'll talk more about the ethics of it than the fairness. Whether or not something is fair is not really related to it being ethical, unless you think that unfairness is inherently unethical.

We should first establish that the rules regarding the campaign were in existence long before the election and rulings, and thus everyone involved with the process is responsible for knowing them and following them.

However, in this case I think that the ruling to disqualify a candidate after a major victory is an unethical decision based on an unethical law. The goal of a democratic process is to establish a leader who has the highest percentage of the popular vote. Governing bodies then implement rules so that candidates can't manipulate the process too much. But the consequences for violations have to be proportional to the violations for a couple reasons.

The first is to ensure that the rules aren't manipulated so that one candidate wins. For example if a candidate has more leverage over the oversight committee, the consequences have to be structured so that candidate can't remove any threats to their victory. Additionally, consequences that are out of line with violations mean that small mistakes by candidates or their campaigns can lead to major changes in regards to who wins the election. This introduces randomness into a process that should be as nonrandom as possible.

For example, in 2008, the Obama campaign paid \$375,000 in fines due to campaign finance violations. These (relatively) small violations did not, and should not have, led to Obama being disqualified from running. If they had, that would have been a clear subversion of the democratic system since even without those violations he may well still have been the most popular candidate.

The main difference here (besides the scale) is that the violations at Hopkins were reported after the election had started. In my opinion, the ethical solution to this would have been to have an independent committee review the violations and decide how much of a swing of votes the violations caused. What the result of this review would have been is outside the scope of this column, but the current system, where any small violation leads to full disqualification is a clear departure from how a democratic system should work.

Zachary Paine Sabin
The Paine-ful Truth

The consequences for violations have to be proportional to the violations...

What's the Word on Campus?
This Week on Yik Yak

<Details

If Clinton wins, it'll be the first time two presidents have had sex.

71

<Details

Maybe the reason the lax team is below .500 is because they are out of shape from riding scooters around everywhere

113

<Details

Send screenshots of your favorite Yik Yaks to hiphop@jhunewsletter.com, and they may just make it into the next edition of The News-Letter!

<Details

Check in each week to see what the anonymous students of Hopkins have to say about what's going down...

<Details

I used to think the D level challenge was studying all night in the library and pulling out with a D on the exam

52

<Details

One thing that I learned from Nelly is that, if you want to get out of your Hopkins responsibilities, all you have to do is get arrested with meth possession.

259

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

Eight Ways to Enjoy Alumni Weekend:

- 1. **Young Alumni Tent Party** (Friday, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Bloomberg Courtyard Tent)
- 2. **DSAGA Carnival** (Friday, 3 p.m., Freshmen Quad)
- 3. **Bring Back the Beach** (Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)
- 4. **Homecoming Lacrosse Game** (Saturday, 2 p.m., Homewood Field)
- 5. **The Hullabalooza** (Saturday, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Decker Quad)
- 6. **The Octopodes Spring Concert** (Saturday, 9 p.m., Shriver Auditorium)
- 7. **Blue Jay 5K Race for Lymphoma** (Sunday, 9:45 a.m., Front of Athletic Center)
- 8. **FFC's Sterling Brunch** (Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., FFC)

Rising sophomores: the middle child of Hopkins

Congratulations, freshmen! You're no longer the babies of the Hopkins fam bam. The title of Baby Blue Jay now falls to all the newly admitted members of the Class of 2019.

According to *The Hub*, the Class of 2019 is the most diverse and the most competitive yet. But hey, they said that about us, too, didn't they? These kids haven't even committed to Hopkins yet and they're already stealing our thunder.

Next year is going to be a completely new experience, what with living in different dorms, having a different meal plan and taking more specialized classes. But the biggest change? We'll no longer get all the attention from the parents — I mean, from the administration and faculty.

All those RAB events we hear about, consider attending and ultimately go to one or two a semester? The special events in the FFC? Floor bonding programs planned by our doting RAs? Those won't be for us anymore. They will belong to the whiny new babies Ronny D. brought home from

the Common App.

And don't even get me started on orientation week. Remember how much fun that week was? It was so exhausting, and we experienced information overload, but having a summer camp-esque introduction to our new school made it feel a little more like home.

But that last week of August 2015 will be devoted to the Class of 2019, the most impressive class yet. Let's just admit it. We're a little jealous.

Gillian
Lelchuk
Fresh Eyes

We don't get all the attention the babies get. We don't get all the attention the seniors get, what with graduating and being 21 and all. In my unprofessional opinion, we, the Class of 2018, are suffering from an acute case of middle child syndrome.

We want to be the baby again, but that will never happen. And it'll be another two years before we get to be the oldest. We're stuck here in the middle, ignored.

But maybe it's not all bad. There are some advantages to being the older sibling, you know, in theory.

Now, we get to be mentors. And it's starting right here, this week, today, with SOHOP (Hi,

visiting prefresh who picked up a copy of *The News-Letter*. You should come here!). We have the wondrous opportunity to guide these wandering, young students who don't know Bloomberg from Gilman.

Some of us will even get to experience orientation week again, this time as first-year mentors. That really is like summer camp; you'll finally get to see the other side of things, be a counselor, learn what they do at those meetings after lights out.

Yeah, being the youngest doesn't look so hot now.

Being a little sibling has its good side, too. For one, we never have to go into anything blind, because someone has been there before. Anywhere we turn, there is always going to be someone with words of advice or caution. For every class you're thinking about taking, there's an upper-classman who can tell you all about it.

The advice doesn't end there. Upperclassmen know all sorts of things, like which res-

taurants have the best French toast, or which apartment building you should lease, or when UniMini mozzarella sticks taste the best. Plus, they can buy you stuff. I'm talking about fruit juice. They can buy you fruit juice when you're too lazy to go to the store yourself.

The best perk of no longer being the baby? You are ranked just a little bit higher, priority-wise. Instead of choosing classes from what's left over, you can pick from a larger selection of what's left over. If you want to study abroad, you'll get on the list before any of the new kids do. And if there's a t-shirt giveaway in front of Levering, you'll get there before the newbies, because you won't need to consult a map to find your way.

Alright, being the middle child isn't so bad after all. While we won't ever really get over our jealousy — we used to be the best and the brightest — we'll stand alongside our fellow Blue Jays to help them navigate the crazy academics of Johns Hopkins.

We, the Class of 2018, are suffering from an acute case of middle child syndrome.

The unrivaled moments, the recollected stories

Two weeks left of classes and about one month until graduation. I'm trying to keep my head down, distract myself with work, but the butterflies bat violently in my stomach. I tried on my graduation robe a few days ago; I bought a frame for my diploma. There is so much left to do and think and feel that I'm capsizing into stillness.

But this is the time to reflect — when the veneer peels away from the platitudes and you're left with the pure pulp of experience. When, looking back at four years, you find yourself reaching out into the haze to grab the ripened fruit of recollected stories; it tastes sweet and finishes sad

on the palate. I will miss this place.

I will miss the people. I will miss the habit of writing my name on the tops of pages, swiping my J-Card through turnstiles, jaywalking across St. Paul to class. I might even miss this school's garbled take on civic life, its short-lived cycles of outrage, muted revolt and inculcated apathy.

I will miss so many things and will refuse to let them go.

Give me the hiccups ringing down alleyways, jungle juice in every shade of moss and lilac. 18! 19! 20!-second keg stands and 3 a.m. specials with hash browns. Take me to the beach, Wyman's winding drive, the greenhouse hut of Gilman where light and quiet sprout sonnets and noontime slumbers. Read

to me from a seventh edition all-nighter, the syllabus's recommended reading left a recluse beneath a blue jay's plumage.

I will hold onto the reflected light from lab windows curled to crescent. I will deny reality's approach when it tells me to forget about the unspent dining dollars, Irene and Sandy pitching wind and rain against buildings. I will remember smoke — heavy like gravity, bõnging inside five chests jointed together by blunted bones.

I will always worry about late-night dance practices, guards turning corners in the library as I fill my mouth with forbidden food, viruses and sickness finishing first in Tours de Franzia.

My mind will forever wander into common rooms; MPRs, study spaces in Brody left for the taking. I will sit in Shriver's audience with Steinem, O'Malley, Novak and Ansari. I will always drink freshly squeezed orange juice at the FFC while watching my waffles be branded with the Hopkins honorific handle. I will always hear my friends' unmistakable laughter.

These are the things I have and there are so many of them — the unrivaled moments when, in the present's space of

an instant, I forgot how nostalgia felt.

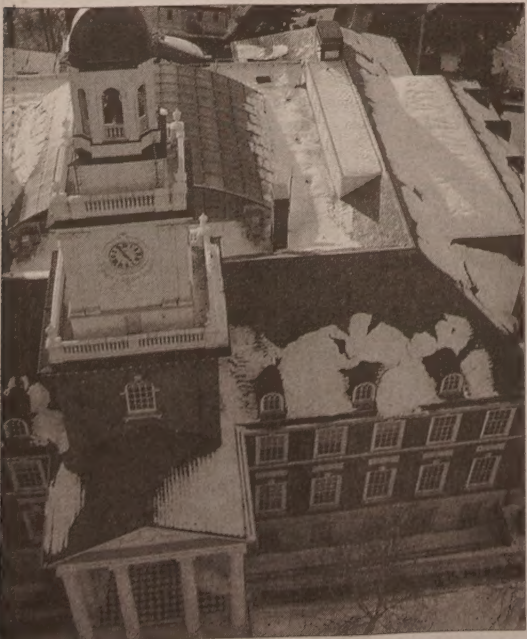
But there is also the degree. There is the procured vault of facts and formulas, the resumé raisers and position names more for protocol than purport. But these moments and memories, heavy and golden like

weights on a pendulum balance, tip the scale to more heart than head. They are what pumped this machinery with sweat and blood. They are what taught us how to fill, according to David Brooks, our moral buckets with more eulogy virtues than resumé. ("The ones that are talked about at your funeral — whether you were kind, brave, honest or faithful. Were you capable of deep love?")

And after this life at Hopkins, if our hearts weigh heavy from more wicked than good, from the substance induced and inspired late-night rambles, the imbibing of laughter tucked between library stacks, then so be it.

We have our fruit and we can eat it too. We can reach back up to grab it and sink our teeth into its flesh and let it all come spilling back. Fresh and forever it will stay, impressed into the movement of days dissolving too slow and too fast.

Camille
Tambunting
And Then There Was One



COURTESY OF MATTHEW PETROFF VIA FLICKR
A part of who we are will always stay within these buildings.

Editor's Top Ten Favorite Baltimore Food Trucks:

- 1. **Gypsy Queen Cafe** (try the Gypsy Cone!)
- 2. **Kooper's Chowhound** (try their burger of the month)
- 3. **Kommie Pig**
- 4. **The Smoking Swine** ("Baltimore's home of underground BBQ")
- 5. **IcedGems** (over 25 flavors of cupcakes!)
- 6. **Chicken 'n' Waffles**
- 7. **GreeChe** (because who doesn't love grilled cheese?)
- 8. **The Jolly Pig**
- 9. **The Hallal Cart** on the corner of East University Parkway and N. Calvert
- 10. **Woody's Taco Island**

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorials

Institute designated smoking areas

Recently, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Kevin Schollenberger, has formed a committee to examine the University's smoking policies on campus. The committee is exploring the possibilities of transitioning to a smoke-free campus or creating designated outdoor smoking areas.

Given the University's reputation for medicine and public health, it seems ironic that Hopkins allows students to smoke freely on campus. While secondhand smoke is a crucial public health concern, the Editorial Board recognizes the importance of personal freedoms, including the choice to smoke. The decision on whether to transition to a smoke-free campus lies with the balance between the right to smoke and the right to not be exposed to secondhand smoke.

We believe that this balance is best struck with the implementation of designated smoking areas. This allows for students to exercise their right to smoke in a way that does not harm others while simultaneously not subjecting the rest of the population to damaging secondhand smoke. Although the

current University policy mandates that smokers stay at least 25 feet from certain buildings, this is neither adequately enforced nor a satisfactory solution. Students inevitably remain exposed to secondhand smoke because they are unable to entirely avoid smokers in their daily routes. A prime example of this issue is the lower entrance to Brody Learning Commons, an area of high student congestion where many smoke freely, ignoring the policy.

To remedy this, the Editorial Board supports the idea of outdoor designated smoking areas. We propose that these areas be located on campus, so that they are convenient for students living in residence halls but far away from areas of high student traffic. The balconied areas lining either side of Gilman Hall are clear suggested possibilities.

As the University continues to explore options regarding the campus smoking policies, the Editorial Board hopes the committee weighs the values of personal freedoms against those of public health and considers strongly the value of defined smoking areas.

MSE should not become another Brody

This week, the University sent an email to undergraduates asking for their participation in a survey regarding possible renovations to the Milton S. Eisenhower Library (MSE). The survey was extensive – asking students for their opinions on everything from chairs and tables to overarching questions about the feel, lighting, mood and structure of their preferred study spaces.

The possibility of renovations to the MSE follows the University's plan to repair the library's current heating, cooling and ventilation systems (HVAC), which the Editorial Board appraises as poor and in desperate need of repair.

While the Editorial Board welcomes certain changes to the MSE, we are fearful that this renovation has the potential to dismantle the library we know and love, replacing it with another version of the Brody Learning Commons.

The Editorial Board values and appreciates Brody but believes that its role is entirely different than the MSE's. While MSE has stationary furniture and varying degrees of noise by level, Brody is collaborative and dynamic throughout. With almost all of its furniture and study materials on wheels, something in Brody is always being moved and rearranged. It is not uncommon for a massive rolling whiteboard and many desks to find themselves arranged into a large

circle overnight. This system is extremely useful for group projects and group studying, but it is not what students want for the entirety of their library's structure; noisy moving furniture can be extremely distracting to those trying to focus on their own work quietly and intently. The Editorial Board worries that renovations to MSE may disrupt the duality the current library provides, replacing both the furniture and the feel of MSE with that of Brody.

The Editorial Board supports renovations to MSE given that they do not drastically alter the structure and tone of the library itself. We suggest updating the library's furnishings: replacing the old, stained carpets; adding outlets to the tables throughout the library like those in the Brody Reading Room; soundproofing all of the study rooms; replacing the chalkboards in the study rooms with whiteboards; and improving the deteriorating bathrooms.

We welcome more options for seating such as more comfortable chairs, but we hope that the atmosphere and structure of MSE remain as is: studious, quiet and distinct from Brody.

It is imperative that students maintain a place simply for heads-down working; taking MSE's current atmosphere away would deprive students of such a crucial place.

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The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Iranian nuclear deal needs to be tougher

By WILL MARCUS

Finally, Barack Obama is about to thaw the 35-year diplomatic freeze with Iran. Yes, the crown jewel of Obama's foreign policy initiatives, the Iranian nuclear deal, has just about been finalized. Several months ago, I wrote an Opinions piece through which I expressed my dissatisfaction at the earlier draft of the nuclear deal. I even went so far as to claim that Israel's extreme right-wing

I am cautiously optimistic that Iran's leadership cares the slightest bit about the plight of its people.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's impassioned speech before Congress was factually justified, albeit extremely inappropriate and undiplomatic. Now I sing a different, cautiously optimistic tune that the deal is moving in the right direction. The new draft of the deal is significantly tougher.

Among other conditions, Tehran has agreed to convert its Fordow facility into a peaceful research center, diminish the Arak heavy water reactor's ability to produce weapons-grade plutonium and reduce its total centrifuges from 19,000 to 6,104, among other conditions. The end result of these conditions is that Iran's "breakout timeline" — or the time required for their nuclear program to produce one weapon — increases from two to three months under the old set of conditions to a whole year under the most recent. A year is a long time when you are a government attempting to conceal a national initiative to build a nuclear weapon as fast as possible. This increase in time is especially salient when you consider Iran's economic situation.

Critics of the deal harp on Iran's past failures to comply with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspec-

tions, but they fail to fully take into account the sanction's snap-back clauses. Iran's economic condition has deteriorated tremendously, and Tehran is appropriately desperate for relief from U.S. sanctions. If the IAEA experiences even the smallest bit of resistance while conducting inspections, the U.S. is bound to reinstate sanctions and bring whatever recovery the Iranian economy has made to a screeching halt. Rest assured, Tehran will be on

very thin ice. Of course, Iranian Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is still lobbying for Iranian military facilities to be off limits to inspectors and that sanctions be

lifted immediately upon the signing of the accord, rather than after international inspectors verify that he's following the conditions, but you can't blame a man fighting a losing battle for wanting to go down swinging. I am confident that he will not get his way.

As of early 2013, the Iranian rial has lost two-thirds of its value against the U.S. dollar and inflation has skyrocketed, increasing prices of fuel, basic foodstuffs and other necessities by a 40 percent margin. Needless to say, the Iranian people are suffering, and their economic situation has only worsened since then as even more countries around the world have stopped maintaining their crippling trade embargoes with the Iran. I hope that as Iran's banks are reconnected to the international financial system and foreign capital once again begins flowing into the economy, Tehran's incentives to follow the conditions of the nuclear deal will only grow stronger over time.

However, despite my cautious optimism on behalf of the

suffering Iranian people, I can't seem to shake my fears that this deal will not stop Iran's leaders from belligerently continuing to pursue a nuclear weapons program. Since the U.S. House of Representatives voted on tougher sanctions in early 2013, Iran has since built an additional 20,000 centrifuges. I genuinely fear that even the snap-back clauses on the new agreement won't stop Khamenei from his nuclear dreams, even while his people suffer enormous consequences for his defiance. Furthermore, Khamenei and other top government officials in Tehran have inconceivable amounts of personal wealth at their disposal. Even if they ran the Iranian economy into a state of hyperinflation and barter became the de facto economic model, Iran's elites still wouldn't likely experience much change in their personal lives. A personal fortune of \$95 billion dollars can insulate an individual from just about anything.

In conclusion, I am cautiously optimistic that Iran's leadership cares the slightest bit about the plight of its people. If this is indeed the case, then I believe that Obama hit a home run with his deal. However, if the regime is actually willing to let its people starve in exchange for its nuclear ambitions, then relieving any pressure from the economic vice will only result in Tehran getting nuclear weapons sooner. I hope with all my heart that this is not the case. The Iranian people have already suffered so much, but a nuclear Iran with nothing to lose is indeed a grave threat to the world. I advocate that the U.S. proceeds with the deal under the condition that the slightest bit of resistance to or foul play involving IAEA inspections bring the full wrath of sanctions back on Tehran on a nonnegotiable basis.

Will Marcus is a junior Economics & International Studies major from Austin, Texas. He is the Opinions Editor.

Police departments shouldn't police themselves

By JIN HOON NAMKUHN

America's police forces, in every state, require reform, and I'm talking about more than just mandatory body cameras. The problem is not that there are bad cops out there. The problem is that our police forces' judiciary systems fail to do anything about them. In 2008 and 2009, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a complaint with the Justice Department accusing the Newark, N.J. police department of misconduct. The investigation yielded that only one of 261 filed complaints was sustained by the department's internal investigations. I find it hard to believe that 260 of those complaints were unjustified. Bad officers require accountability. Someone needs to police our police, because they definitely aren't doing an adequate job of it.

Growing up, my best friend's father was a police of-

ficer. Once, at dinner, I can recall him saying, "You can beat the rap, but you can't beat the ride." I think what he meant was that your defense attorney can get you an innocent verdict or get your charges dropped, but you can't avoid the giant hassle involved with being sucked into the maelstrom of our legal system. Don't get me wrong, I have respect for the man, but this way of thinking is messed up. Officers shouldn't even be conscious of the "ride." If someone deserves the rap, they deserve the rap, but no one deserves the ride. To me, this just highlights how bulletproof the average officer feels. Too many times have I seen a squad car blast past me on the freeway with no lights or sirens. They simply act with impunity, content with the knowledge that they are immune to the laws that they are supposed to enforce. I still don't understand how someone with body cameras

might help, but regardless, a reform of internal affairs investigations and discipline is far more important.

We also can't forget that there are also a lot of good cops out there. In fact, the majority of alleged violations of power are due to a small minority of officers who are repeat offenders. Just as in all walks of life, some police officers are just prone to thugery and selfish behavior. The majority of people, in general, are functional members of society who do their jobs honestly — just like the majority of police officers. Unfortunately, however, the bad apples with badges don't get punished like those without.

Why aren't there any civilian organizations that aim to police the police? Obviously, they can't do it themselves. The general public so far can only hope to increase scrutiny, but what is scrutiny without a means to action? I realize full well that there is more at play here than just discipline for bad officers, but that alone would be a great start. Discipline can't be in the hands of those being investigated. Ultimately, the police represent how the government leverages violence to control citizens, and so far, that arm of violence is allowed to move completely independently. It is completely unchecked, and I believe that this is wrong.

Jin Hoon Namkuhn is a freshman Biomedical Engineering major from Los Angeles.

Dieting is great if you have the right reasons

By SARAH STOCKMAN

I don't like diets. Every time I go on one I feel like I'm conforming — conforming to society's idea of skinny, conforming to what doctors think is the "right" body size, conforming to an idea I have in my head of what I should look like. Plus, diets turn me into a crazy, obsessive, calorie-counting fiend. Also, I like chocolate and bread. A lot.

Modern-day society is obsessed with losing weight, partially because two-thirds of American adults are considered obese, and partially because we all want to look like Victoria's Secret and Abercrombie models. There are a myriad of ways to lose weight: pills, juice cleanses, the Atkins diet, Weight Watchers, gluten-free diets, etcetera. Our obsession with diets can be exhausting and sometimes makes me want to stay in my room forever eating nothing but Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

I've never scientifically been overweight, and my doctors have yet to tell me that I need to lose a few pounds. However, since starting college, I've definitely gained some weight. I do a lot of stressing and sitting and eating and sitting and stressing and eating and not having time to exercise due to stressing and sitting and eating. All of this sitting and stressing and eating have caused my pants to become a little too tight for comfort, so last week I decided to get over my aversion to diets and face the dieting frontier head on. I downloaded the popular calorie-counting app MyFitnessPal and plugged in my height, current weight, sex and desired weight. After a few seconds the app spit out the number that would be my constant companion for the next five weeks: 1,210.

I gaped at the app. Only 1,210 calories a day? That's ridiculous! My roommate would come home one day and find my emaciated body lying on the floor, one hand outstretched in a vain attempt to reach a bag of chocolate. This diet was going to kill my enjoyment of food

and, eventually, me.

However, being the ridiculously stubborn person that I am and rationalizing that I could stop whenever I wanted and buy a bigger pair of pants, I decided to give this tiny amount of food a shot. The next day, I packed my lunch of mostly fruits, vegetables and Greek yogurt and braced myself for my slow demise.

As it turns out, 1,210 calories is actually a lot of calories if you don't have bread for every meal. I had trouble with this at first since I'm a huge fan of bread, but then I started liking how I felt after eating a lot of veggies and proteins. I also learned that the calories I burned exercising were added to the total calories I could eat. This meant that I didn't have to be deprived of bread and chocolate all the time, which in turn gave me the incentive to work out and eat better.

Although I don't like diets, and I'm against society's image of what a woman's body should look like, I do believe that being comfortable in your pants and with your own body is important. I'm not saying that everyone should go on a diet, but if you find yourself jumping up and down more than usual to get your jeans on, or your doctor has expressed concerns about your health, you might want to think about losing a few pounds. If you're against losing weight because you're against the norm, then lose weight so you don't become another value in America's obesity statistic.

Losing weight is a pain and something not everyone wants to go through the effort of doing. However, it does pay off in the end. All that torture and stomach growling and not being able to eat four slices of cake really does lead to weight loss, a slimmer body and an overall sense of health. I'm pretty sure I will always hate dieting, but I do love when putting on pants is not the hardest part of my day.

Sarah Stockman is a junior Writing Seminars major from Los Angeles.

Including service charges are a big step in the right direction

By KATHRYN REES

I recently came across an article in *The Washington Post* about an intriguing new trend: Restaurants are charging a set 17 or 18 percent service charge in place of voluntary tips from customers. Why? To improve wages for their workers.

Having never worked as a waiter myself, I only learned a few months ago that Maryland's minimum wage, as of Jan. 1 of this year, is \$8 per hour, and yet, for people in jobs that commonly receive tips — such as wait staff — the tipping minimum wage is only \$3.63 per hour.

This longstanding policy operates on the notion that employers must pay the difference when their employees' earned tips fall short of the \$4.37 per hour needed to make up the difference in wage standards. However, this does not always occur; in practice, because many tipped workers have difficulty proving when their tips are insufficient, especially when customers tip in cash, as opposed to credit.

Moreover, a common misconception is that tips are supposed to reward waitstaff for good service and that waiters who provide poor service should not be tipped at all. Personally, I have always found it disrespectful to not leave a tip, but I have been known to tip less generously in the past for, shall we say, less than satis-

factory service — but little did I realize that my tips actually mattered because they supplement waiters' minimum wages.

According to a 2011 Economic Policy Institute report, tipped workers are more likely to live below the federal poverty level. Newly implemented service charges at restaurants hold promise for improving the lives and well-being of tipped workers because they are put towards providing healthcare and other benefits to employees.

When an additional charge appears at the bottom of your bill, you may be off-put as a customer, but in reality, you are paying around the same amount that you would have if you had left a tip instead.

The staggering disparity between minimum wage standards and tipping minimum wage standards in Maryland — and the majority of states across the nation — not only affects waiters, but also impacts barbers, bartenders, car valets and other tipped workers.

Switching over to a service charge-based system holds promise for improving wages for restaurant workers. I, for one, am excited to support restaurants who undertake this innovative approach to raising wages for their workers.

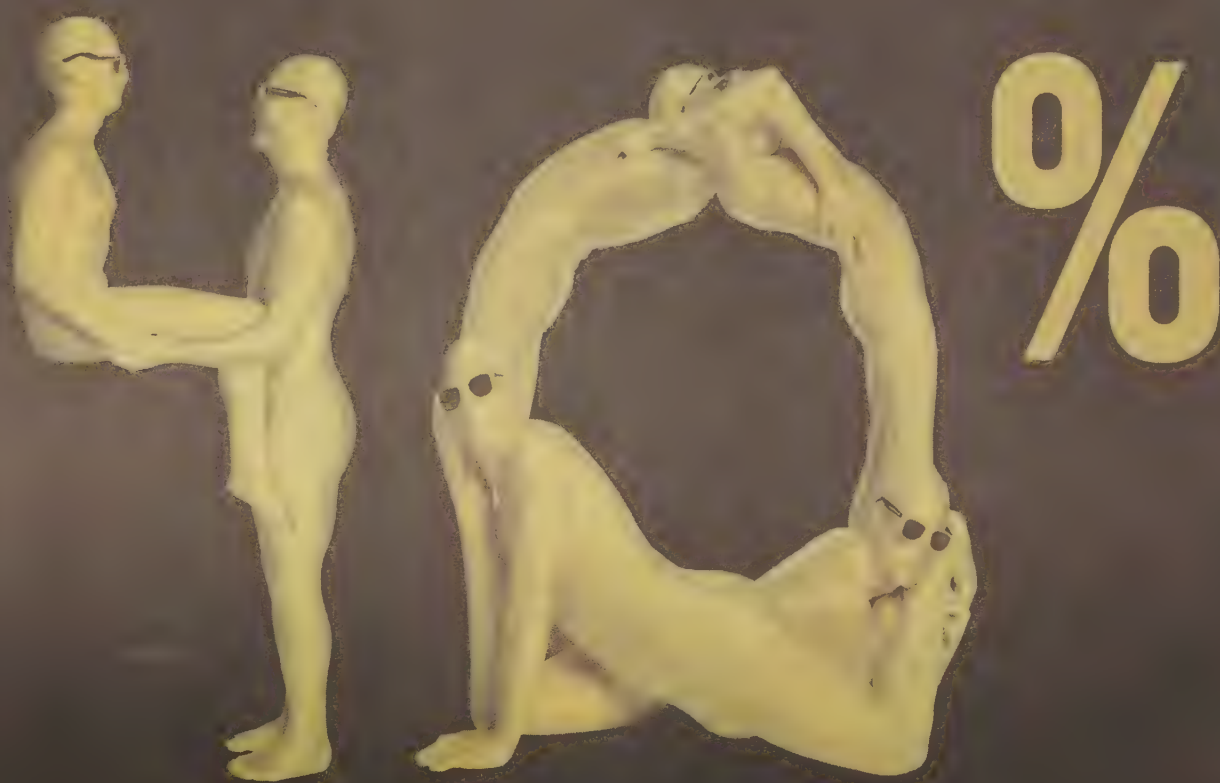
Kathryn Rees is a junior Public Health major from Los Angeles.

Errata: April 9 Edition

In the April 9, 2015 edition of *The News-Letter*, a contributor's name was misspelled. The correct spelling is "Dohyung Kim."

The News-Letter regrets this error.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Forty percent of the pedestrians killed in Maryland in 2008 were impaired by alcohol. Be smart—call the Blue Jay Shuttle for a ride.

Don't be a statistic.

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THE B SECTION

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APRIL 16, 2015



Arts & Entertainment

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Sports

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Lebron James doesn't belong in all-time discussion — B12

YOUR WEEKEND APRIL 16-19

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Friday

The Premium Hour

Zissimos Bar, 8 p.m.

Come by this Hampden tavern for a night of stand-up comedy and improv from indie, guest and house troupes.

Karaoke

Club Hippo, 9 p.m.

Club Hippo in Mount Vernon offers drink specials and karaoke early every Friday night. It's a great way to start off the night before heading downtown but can easily become an all-night activity.

Four Hours of Funk

The Windup Space, 10 p.m.

This eclectic Station North venue hosts a funk, boogie and house dance party every third Friday. Free before 10:30 p.m. and \$5 afterwards.

Trans Am with Plurals and Early American Metro Gallery, 9 p.m.

Trans Am is a rock band from Maryland. They were one of the originators of post-rock. The show will likely be loud, synth-filled and dance-able.

Saturday

MediumRare: An Experimental Fashion Event Lithanian Hall, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Over 200 models, designers and performers will gather at Baltimore's Lithuanian Hall to showcase and sell a variety of artistic and utilitarian items. Tickets are available for \$12 through the MICA store.

Random Rab

The 8x10, 8 p.m.

Multi-instrumentalist and singer Random Rab takes his EDM act to the small Federal Hill venue. Tickets are \$13.

Bump & Grind '90s Dance Party

The Ottobar, 9 p.m.

Within walking distance of Campus, the Ottobar offers great music and a hip crowd. Strap on your jelly shoes, break out your choker and head to the beloved Hampden watering hole this weekend.

RECORD STORE DAY!

Participating Record Stores, All Day

Grab limited edition releases and participate in various Record Store Day related activities.

Sunday

Sunday Matinee: Plastic Utopia

The Crown, 7 p.m.

Stop by everyone's favorite Station North venue for live music, poetry readings, a monologue performance and a special screening of "Plastic Utopia" (1997) on VHS. It's FREE!

What happens at Dirty Soul

By **JESSE SHUMAN**
Your Weekend Columnist

The Crown, a venue of eclectic taste and good vibes, sits just beyond the peripheries of where the Blue Jay Shuttle will pick you up. Here — when you enter, swoop around the corner and walk up the stairs — you're confronted with a choice: the red room or the blue room.

If you venture to your left into the red room you'll find every sort of person engaged in all types of activities, all carefree and communal — dancing, socializing, ruminating.

Just in front of the glittery streamers that fill the wall behind the stage, I've seen a myriad of performers — from rock bands to soulful DJs — vitalize a crowd for

hours, all without a cover charge.

The room radiates with red light and neon, but it's definitely a blue pill — a type of wonderland where people come together under no specific circumstance in wistful escapism. Located on North Charles and 20th Streets, it's a great place to start or end the night on your way to Mount Vernon, Fells or the Inner Harbor.

When The Crown hosts its free, monthly event, "Dirty Soul Dance Party," you know it's going to be a good time. DJs Landis Expandis and Mikie Love spin soulful sounds of the '60s and '70s and make it their own.

Expandis and Love's sets extended across decades and incorporated tunes from greats such as Funkadelic, Rufus Thom-

as and Betty Davis. Like funky apothecaries, they add the right amount of this and that to liven the music up and maximize the dancing. Since it's not that spacious, all the constant movement heats the room so that you think clouds are going to start appearing on the ceiling.

This night attracts a diverse crowd: You have your hip-hop paterfamilias, the presumed art student in a kilt, the middle-aged woman and the huddled group of Hopkins students. Not to be hyperbolic, but there's harmony: Everyone is doing his or her own unabashed thing. The archetypes intermingle, and pretty soon a certain social fluidity moves throughout the place.

Everyone stays until the end, which is when The Crown closes at 2 a.m.

when we slowly trickle out feeling exasperated and fulfilled. Events like these give an authentic taste of what the Baltimore scene is like — diverse, surreal and fun.

You can catch the next one by following The Crown's Facebook page where they announce upcoming shows via Events. Just last Thursday, WJHU & Baltimore Curators hosted a show there featuring Rye Rye. They have a host of other awesome going-ons (there's something for everyone) that you can catch almost every weekend.

Grab your friends, leave your inhibitions at the door and be sure to catch the Dirty Soul Dance Party at The Crown as well as Four Hours of Funk at the Wind-Up Space for your monthly groove session.



Located in the heart of Station North, the Crown is the perfect spot to grab a few drinks on your way downtown or hang out all night. BMOREARTS.COM

Chillin' with Dylan

By **SOFIA SCHONENBERG**
Your Weekend Columnist

There is something about a late Friday night with nothing to do that allows your dorm room to become the perfect hub for great ideas. This was exactly the case for me last week when I nonchalantly decided to browse through concerts in Baltimore, curious to see if there were any interesting artists to see at some point. I guess by some incredible twist of fate I found leftover tickets to see Bob Dylan in concert the next day. The first thing I thought was, "Wait, he is still touring?"

Saturday night at 8 p.m. I experienced the 'teenage prayer' Dylan, who is so harmoniously sung about. You can always listen to older music which means that our generation knows

the names of the legendary American musicians. I can't tell you how many times I've seen BOB DYLAN printed on a shirt at Urban Outfitters with a black and white photo of him from the mid-1960s. At the concert, however, I experienced something that could not be seen on a generic grungy retail tee.

The concert took place at the Lyric Opera House. It provided a fitting setting for elegance, grandeur and an aged vibe.

Dylan, at the ripe old age of 74, walked on to the stage. The classic white fedora hat, fit with the black stripe, commanded his stage presence as all eyes were drawn to him.

After the claps, cheering and shrieks of excitement ended, the man opened his mouth to let out his voice and my was

it amazing. I heard some people say that his voice was not the same, that it sounded worse since he was old. But I was pleasantly surprised as I heard a rasp in his iconic voice, the wear and tear of the years that made the socially and politically fired lyrics even stronger. The love Dylan has for his profession and for the power of the music was tangible throughout the whole performance.

As he belted out "Tangled Up in Blue," the crowd went wild. A man stood up to cheer Dylan on with a shirt that read "BOB DYLAN TOUR: 1994." He was not the only die-hard fan there. Admired by so many people, Dylan really is a legend. Seventy-four years old and he was swaying from side-to-side at the stand, foot tapping and all.

Dylan would switch

from sitting at the piano to standing at a microphone stand, playing the harmonica. The lighting was filled with warm undertones, complementing the sweet and soulful music. The light rasp of his voice was just enough to portray the history and the hard rock required of such a respected musician. Different sets highlighted different ambiances, going from an old rock feel to a modern banger.

As I sat in my seat, accompanied by my big, I had one of the most amazing experiences. Needless to say, after a riveting encore — he sang "Blowin' in the Wind" — I realized it was some of the best money I had ever spent. When I told my dad, he told me he had seen Dylan perform in the 1970s. Still going strong, Dylan filled my Saturday night with a rock for the ages.



The Lyric Opera House, located at 140 W. Mt. Royal Ave., has been open since 1894 and hosts shows several times a week. COURTESY OF SOFIA SCHONBERG

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OK Go concert features powerful stage effects Barnstormers explore adulthood in *Company*

By **AMANDA AUBLE**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In a colorful, multimedia concert experience, pop-rock group OK Go buried its Rams Head, Live! audience in confetti and interacted with fans last Sunday night.

Consisting of band members Damian Kulash, Tim Nordwind, Dan Konopka and Andy Ross, OK Go has released four studio albums since its 1998 formation; however, the group's creative online music videos have garnered them the most mainstream acclaim.

Racking up millions of YouTube views, the videos have progressed from precise treadmill dancing in the Grammy-Award-winning video "Here it Goes Again" to elaborate optical illusions in video for their latest single "The Writings on the Wall."

OK Go's live show refrains from simply recreating these complex videos. Instead, the group's use of special effects and light shows reproduces their signature creative feel with a fuller sensory experience. Performing songs from their latest album, *Hungry Ghosts*, OK Go gave fans personalized moments and an entrancing light display throughout the show.

While the audience waited for the band to begin, a transparent sheet dropped in front of the stage. Some of the younger, high-school aged audience members initially started making shadow



COURTESY OF AMANDA AUBLE

Rock group OK Go performed songs from their new album *Hungry Ghosts* with an entrancing light show.

puppets against this curtain, but an opening scene soon covered the screen. Famous movies clips, including those from *The Breakfast Club* and *Beverly Hills Cop*, appeared and were edited so that the iconic characters repeated the words "OK Go."

After this build up, the band took the stage to perform the upbeat, electronic rock single "Upside Down and Inside Out." The band members themselves were clearly visible, but the screen simultaneously projected close-ups of their faces as well as hypnotizing black and white digital patterns. This produced an entrancing 3D effect.

Although this visual illusion risked feeling like a barrier, the screen

remained lifted for most of the show, especially when the band decided to connect more with the audience. Lead singer Damian Kulash defied the typical concert dynamic as he crowd surfed and plunged into the center of the audience with his guitar to perform a song. Without the additional aid of a microphone, Kulash sang an acoustic version of "Last Leaf" from 2010's *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky* surrounded by audience members.

Kulash also initiated the first of several question-and-answer segments with fans, who asked anything from musical to personal

questions. Bassist Tim Nordwind also answered questions ranging from requests like "Will you be my bae?" to "Will you go to prom with me?"

The band also attempted to incorporate audience participation by formulating and recording a new song live. The audience acted like a drum kit, stomping to create a kick drum sound and hissing to mimic a high hat cymbal.

The beats were then played on a loop. However, despite the band's best effort to add their own electronic and vocal touches, the overall result was not a cohesive

SEE OK GO, PAGE B5

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Staff Writer

After having performed a series of six productions in the Swirnow Theater, the Barnstormers recently showcased their rendition of Sondheim's musical comedy *Company*.

According to the musical's producer, Eve Rosekind, this particular show was chosen by the Barnstormers Executive Board. It was selected out of the many suggestions they received due to the fact that it is an ensemble show in which everyone has a key role to play. It also only requires a simple set.

The musical, originally produced and directed by Harold Prince, is based on a book written by George Furth. It opens with the main character Robert celebrating his 35th birthday with his friends who are all married or soon-to-be-married couples. He is surrounded by these happy couples for the duration of the plot, only to discover the nuances, both positive and negative, of their seemingly blissful exterior.

Likewise, the musical numbers are both serious and satirical, often focusing on the disheartening complexities of marriage and the question of set-

ting down and raising a family. One of the recurring musical themes is from the "Opening," in which Robert's friends repeat "Bobby" in an ominous manner, smothering him with the prospects of marriage and commitment.

Centered around adult matters, the show discusses many topics that could be difficult for college students to relate to. According to Rosekind, one of the ways the cast was able to delve into these topics was by hiring a professional director, Robert Mintz, who himself has had these experiences and helped other cast members to further comprehend them.

"He was a great resource for helping the cast understand a lot of the difficult materials," wrote Rosekind in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The other way the cast tackled these questions was by really thinking and talking about their characters and their relationships to each other based on what their characters say and do in the show."

Freshman Elizabeth Winkelhoff, who plays Robert's friend Amy, took part in this discussion of the subject material.

SEE COMPANY, PAGE B5

The Last Bison perform Southern folk music

By **EMILY HERMAN**
News & Features Editor

Indie-folk group The Last Bison showed no signs of fatigue as they ended their nine-week, cross-country tour at Washington D.C.'s U Street Music Hall on Saturday night and led the audience in an ecstatic, sweaty Americana dance party.

With six band members and at least 10 instruments, The Last Bison rollicked their way through an hour-and-a-half long set, weaving tracks from their March EP *Dorado* and their 2014 album *VA* seamlessly with earlier albums *Inheritance* and *Quill*. The show also featured a booming, percussive cover of Stephenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride."

The band has changed its aesthetic over the years. The members used to perform in clothes more suited for the Antebellum South than the 21st century, and their 2011 debut album's title track "Quill" is about writing old-fashioned love letters, including the lyrics, "When the ink meets quill/With love my letters are filled/Let us seal this love as the back/Of the envelope's sealed with wax."

The band's early music is evocative of its beginnings as family friends from home, school and church in Chesapeake, Va., filled with lush string instruments, full choral harmonies and Christian-infused lyrics. "Quill" closes with "Searching hard we will fully rely/On the words of the one crucified."

Both in recordings and live on stage, the band's music feels very organic and rustic as if it were just accidentally falling into place. Lead singer Ben Hardesty's voice is as thick, rough and bristly as his reddish-brown beard. Violinist Teresa Totheroh, a tiny curly-haired blonde, smiled into her instrument as if the two of them were sharing intimate inside jokes. From this writer's vantage point, at least a third of the band performed barefoot.

Besides ditching the *Little House on the Prairie* garb for contemporary yet still church-ready clothes, The Last Bison proved they've grown into a sexier sound when they transitioned the crowd from hollering and stomping along to early favorite "Dark

Am I" to the Gypsy Dip, a sensual hip swaying dance move with arms flung in the air.

The crowd was very into this transition. Try to imagine a hundred or so women in sweet sundresses and scruffy lumbersexual men letting their hair down and slowly gyrating back and forth to banjo player Dan Hardesty's riffs and the deep warbles from Amos Housworth's cello. The whole affair conjured a sense of musical and spiritual awakening, like a bunch of jaded teenagers sneaking out of church to fool around in the woods.

Above all, The Last Bison celebrated music itself through enthusiastically playing and jumping along to their textured tracks. All of their songs embrace unconventional rhythms and

sounds, like the piercing sounds percussionist and backup vocalist Annah Housworth created by sliding a cello bow across the side of a metallophone key.

As suggested by the shout-out to their home state in their newest album title, the band's focus has expanded beyond a celebration of religion and love to include a deep gratitude for their home state of Virginia.

VA's opening track "Bad Country" helps the listener "feel the wind is blowing South again." The band even threw official "Virginia is for Lovers" trucker hats into the crowd at the end of the show. This writer loves the "Virginia is for Lovers" t-shirt she wrangled from the hands of some overzealous high school kid at the edge of the stage.

SEE BISON, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF AMANDA AUBLE

Lead singer Damian Kulash sang in the audience sans microphone.

Blue Velvet delves into characters' subconscious

By **CHACONNE MARTIN-BERKOWICZ**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Blue Velvet (1986), directed by David Lynch, is a suspenseful detective story that explores the fine line between reality and our dream states.

Jeffrey Beaumont (Kyle MacLachlan) returns to his hometown from college because his father is in recovery after having a stroke. While strolling around his neighborhood, Beaumont happens upon an ear in the grass that has become infested with insects. Beaumont brings the body part to the police and, when the detective alludes to the fact that the ear may be a piece of evidence in a case, he is intrigued. The detective's daughter, Sandy Williams (Laura

Dern) confronts Jeffrey about the mystery, and the two become fast friends. Sandy, innocent and beautiful, hesitantly helps Jeffrey pursue the case on his own.

Jeffrey becomes increasingly involved with the case, discovering the mysterious and alluring Dorothy Vallens (Isabella Rossellini) and the terrifying, psychopathic villain Frank Booth (Dennis Hopper). In his self-proclaimed effort to protect Dorothy from Frank, Jeffrey becomes so entwined in the case that it is unclear whether he is truly on a mission to help or whether he is indulging in his own latent perversion.

Music also plays an important role in *Blue Velvet*. Dorothy herself is a nightclub singer.

SEE BLUE VELVET, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF EMILY HERMAN

The Last Bison, featuring the gritty vocals of lead singer Ben Hardesty, ended their tour in D.C. on Saturday.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Neulore plays soulful folk with Last Bison

BISON, FROM B3

The opening band, Nashville folk duo Neulore, also inspired enthusiastic audience participation with their dramatic set. Faced with a crowd that seemed largely unacquainted with their repertoire, the band won the room over with the luscious juxtaposition of gritty and soulful vocals against folksy, pulsing guitars.

Band members Adam Agin and William T. Cook chose an appropriate name for their band; the combination of Agin's side-buzzed swooping hair with his Southern Sam Smith-style voice definitely evokes a new breed of folk.

Fittingly, Neulore's rendition of Smith's "I'm Not The Only One" was a standout among their set, along with a tender acoustic performance

of "Don't Shy From The Light," a song that Agin dedicated to anyone in the audience who had ever gone through a rough time.

Neulore's appeal stems from more than just their innovative take on folk music. Although Agin insisted that he and Cook are "really not cool at all," they came across as achingly and effortlessly cool. They raised a toast to the crowd to celebrate the night, and the end of their tour with The Last Bison, clinking their drinks with whatever the audience had in their hand.

Overall, The Last Bison and Neulore's show was a toast to passionate and innovative folk, a simultaneous salute to the South and a reinvention of Americana complete with boisterous, crowd-sourced choruses, like a "cheers, y'all" set to music.



COURTESY OF EMILY HERMAN

The Neulore and Last Bison show celebrated innovative folk music.

Insurgent offers little beyond a cliffhanger

Looking back, I may have been a bit harsh in my review of *Divergent* a year ago. When that film was released, I criticized it for its overall blandness. In a world where young adult novel-to-film adaptations run amok in the industry, I felt that *Divergent* offered absolutely nothing new. All of its concepts and characters were so blatantly taken from other works that it was almost as if the story was created on an assembly line.

In all fairness, that initial assessment may have been a little rash. After all, it was only the franchise's first film, and as such this first movie had to dedicate a lot of time to world-building and establishing exposition. The sequels, with the groundwork in place, could then take the series in its own direction.

Nevertheless, sometimes first impressions are correct because *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*, the franchise's sequel, is even worse than the original.

Whereas the first film suffered from unmemorable characters and concepts lifted almost directly from *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games* and other popular franchises, *Insurgent* takes these concepts and cranks the "rip-off dial" to maximum capacity. Looking back, I cannot find a single bit of original material in this film. It's simply an amalgamation of comfortable, safe and recognizable ideas mixed into an unpleasant homogenous glob.

The story of *Insurgent* picks up immediately following the events of the prior film. The setting is a dystopian society in which people are sorted into one of several "fac-

tions" based on their defining character traits. Tris (Shailene Woodley), Four (Theo James) and a small group of friends are all known as "divergents" since they exhibit traits of multiple factions, making them impossible for the government to classify.

Following the Erudite faction's revolution in the first film, Tris and company remain on the run. Meanwhile, Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the leader of the Erudite faction, discovers a box left behind by their society's founders, which can only be opened by a divergent. Desperate to use the box's contents to end divergence for good, Jeanine begins rounding up all

of the divergents she can while Tris struggles to rally a factionless army to oppose the oppressive government.

While stories about oppressive governments and free-thinkers opposing repression are certainly nothing new, typically the burden falls on the writers to add something new to the genre or to at least tell it in an interesting way. And while it is not always fair to judge a film based on the other seemingly unrelated films, the incredibly close releases and similar premises of *Insurgent* and the following film makes ignoring the comparison impossible: *Mockingjay* did the



INSURGENT MOVIE VIA FANPOPCOM

Insurgent is set in a futuristic society that splits its citizenry into separate factions.

story first, and *Mockingjay* did it better.

The rallying of the impoverished subgroups, the arbitrary divisions of the citizenry and even the evil-for-the-sake-of-evil villains of the two films are so remarkably similar that it's almost embarrassing.

It certainly doesn't help matters that the film suffers a chronic case of middle-film disease. As is common in franchises like this, the second film typically serves less as a stand-alone story and more as a prolonged exposition for the final installment (or the next-to-final installment in the case of young adult Hollywood where final books are always cut in half). *Insurgent* has these failing symptoms in spades.

While its quest is interesting enough to carry the film to its conclusion, once the credits roll one feels that everything that just happened occurred solely so the third film could happen. The resolutions are weak while the cliffhangers are strong, and blatant next-movie-baiting is always a weak storytelling technique.

The more technical aspects of the film certainly do nothing to alleviate the film's overall bland feeling. The action scenes, while potent and plentiful, don't really do anything particularly unique or memorable. There are no moments where one will look back and remember "wow, that was awesome" or even "wow, that was ridiculous." The action is there, but nothing more. (Although, to give credit

where credit is due, I do applaud the film for using less shaky-cam than its predecessor.)

The actors, similarly, all give passable performances but nothing exceptional. Winslet in particular almost seems bored in her role as Jeanine. While the performance is by no

means bad, especially considering how one-dimensional the character is, there is simply nothing charismatic about the acting. It's unfortunate because memorable villains can often-times save otherwise forgettable films, but Winslet just

doesn't pull it off here.

The one exception to this criticism is Woodley herself, whose performance as Tris manages to gain this film some favor. While Tris was a pretty forgettable Katniss Everdeen ripoff in the first film, Woodley certainly works to give her a bit more distinct of a presence in *Insurgent*. While she doesn't pull it off completely (due to the nature of the script), she certainly makes the role a bit more salvageable. The character may not be great, but Woodley continues to prove herself as an exceptionally capable actress and is definitely the best part about this film.

Aside from Woodley's performance, however, there is simply not enough in *Insurgent* to warrant recommending. It offers nothing new, opting instead to try and copy far superior predecessors. While the film may not be explicitly bad, it is a complete and utter waste of time.

Overall rating: 2/5

Tim Freborg
Flashframe Film
Reviews

Hopkins professor shares bilingual poetry book

By AMANDA AUBLE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hopkins English professor and published poet Donald Berger read from his latest poem compilation titled *The Long Time* alongside Terrence Winch Wednesday night in the Tudor and Stuart Room.

Berger has previously taught at the University of Maryland, College Park. Currently teaching an Expository Writing class at Hopkins titled "Living Other Lives in Contemporary American Short Stories," Berger has now published his second volume of poems. *The Long Time* features narratives, dramatic monologues and lyric poems that are also translated into German by Christoph König. Prior to this joint reading, Berger discussed his work with *The News-Letter*.

The News-Letter: The *Long Time* is a bilingual text. How did you incorporate the German language into your book?

Donald Berger: I was giving a reading in a German University where a friend [Christoph König] of mine teaches. After the reading he just very nicely said at the dinner "Oh, we have to publish these." I just forgot about it, and I took the train back to Ber-

lin. Next thing I know, he sent me an email saying, "Send me 48 of your poems. I'd like to translate them and send them to my publisher."

So that's what happened and we waited a year and then another like year and a half, so now it's finally out. [König] has translated it and with his help I got it published at this house, which is maybe one of the two or three best places I could've published it in Germany. I didn't even realize it was that big of a press. So I kind of lucked out.

N-L: What is your history with the German language? Do you speak German?

DB: I speak German, yes. I lived a total of four years of my life in Germany. Two years in the southwestern town of Tübingen, and on two separate occasions I've lived a year in Berlin.

N-L: Do you plan to read in German at all?

DB: No, but I'm giving a reading in Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C. on April 25. The translator is coming to that reading. He's flying over so he's going to read in German, and we'll be doing sort of a bilingual reading.

N-L: How would you describe the poems in this book?

DB: Some of them are narrative, some of them are a little like dramatic monologues, and some are more elusive lyric poems. So it's a mix of the three.

N-L: Can you mention any of the overarching themes that your book touches on?

DB: That's a good question because what I ended up doing was, it was such a long time between my two books, that I basically selected from poems that crossed 20 years. Some of the themes would definitely be a kind of German motif of Berlin, living in Berlin. Washington is a big motif because I've lived in Washington. Places in general where I've traveled. Beyond that I don't know what other common threads you might find, but I guess I'd leave that up to the readers to find out.

N-L: What do you hope students will take away from your reading?

DB: I hope that maybe it excites them to actually hear somebody who is reading their own work and maybe make them a little more curious about reading poetry if they

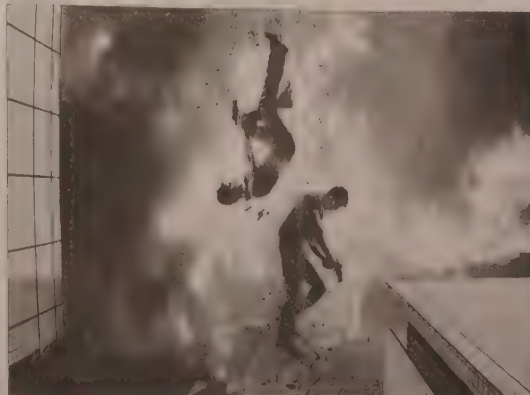
don't already. I don't quite know what to expect as far as the effect it will have. We'll see.

N-L: Who are your writing influences?

DB: I have a lot of them. It depends almost week to week on who I'm reading. I always come up with a few basic ones. One guy I really like is a french poet named Blaise Cendrars; a poet James Tate, who was my teacher; Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Creeley. But I was in college at a time when there was a huge translation boom. So there were a lot of European and Latin American poets being translated. My influences are as much European and Latin American as they are British, and my teacher was a Francophile too.

N-L: What are your future writing plans?

DB: I have stockpiled another few manuscripts at home. I'm trying to find the best poems from among some of those and put them together into a book. I'm glad you asked that because it helps me to kind of plan ahead... I joke with my friends and say I'm sort of on the posthumous plan. I'm writing these and you can read them whenever you want.



COURTESY OF SAHIL KHAN VIA FLICKR

Insurgent's technical aspects do not cure the film of its other large flaws.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OK Go's interactive show engages the audience

OK GO FROM B3
sounding rhythm.

In a unique moment for fans, Kulash performed his own rendition of legendary rock group Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog." Kulash's unrestrained and soulful vocals gave the classic rock song a contagious new energy and produced a grittier sound, contrasting with the band's usually airy vocals. The audience responded to Kulash's original cover and actively sang along.

Besides the dynamic lighting techniques and interactive moments, confetti served as the show's other integral effect. Most live shows typically choose to dump confetti sparingly or just as a finale, but OK Go's concert bombarded fans with blasts from confetti cannons.

In fact, the blasts were not even limited to one per song. Certain performances, such as "This Too Shall Pass" and "Won't Let You Down," were punctuated with confetti throughout their choruses. Although massive amounts of paper scraps were left on the floor and on audience members themselves,



COURTESY OF AMANDA AUBLE
OK Go's performance was exciting and included choreographed dancing and other visual effects.

this special effect didn't feel excessive, and it appealed to the younger audience.

The curtain dropped again as the band concluded their set, but after more applause from the audience, the screen illuminated with a montage of the band's various Internet videos. Returning to the stage for an encore, OK Go danced a precisely choreographed routine to their song "A Million Ways." Dressed

in matching white jumpsuits, this routine was reminiscent of their usual music video dynamic.

The lights then went dark, and the band members' suits glowed different colors under a blacklight. As they performed their final song, "Here It Goes Again," glow-in-the-dark bubbles started to fly from the stage.

Instead of a separate group warming up the crowd, band members Norwind and Konop-

ka deejayed songs and played their own mixes. Although the band's main performance excelled with effects and crowd interaction, this opening act felt rushed and lacked energy.

Despite the upbeat nature of the tracks, the crowd took a longer time to start dancing. This resulted in an awkward, unsure atmosphere at the show's start.

In spite of the make-shift feel that the opening segment introduced, the exciting multimedia and precise nature of the band's main set was strong enough to surpress any initial hesitations. Concert-goers left OK Go's concert covered in confetti and full of energy.

Barnstormers take on adult roles in new play

COMPANY, FROM B3
"Marriage and its struggles are a topic that I myself, as a single freshman in college, have little personal experience with. But we [the cast and our directors] would discuss the show, the songs, and the characters to get a better feel for them and how to fill their shoes," Winkelhoff wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Cast members would even discuss their characters outside of rehearsal, like how me and the actor who played my husband, Ian Markham, came up with backstory, as to how our characters met and how they acted around the house."

Winkelhoff also compared this experience to those she has had while working on other productions with the Barnstormers.

"I did participate in the Freshman One Acts, and that was just like this but at a much smaller scale. So although *Company* took up much more time and drained a lot more energy, both environments were stimulating and welcoming," Winkelhoff explained.

As producer, Rosekind was able to ensure that all cast members felt welcome and comfortable.

"I am there to support the cast, crew and director if they ever have any questions, run into any problems, or are having difficulties working with another member of the production," she wrote.

The hair and makeup, designed by Ines Botto, helped transform the cast members from

young college students into disgruntled thirtysomethings and brought the audience deeper into the musical's story. With perfect pieces like Joanne's tailored blazers and slick bun, Susan's prim pink sweaters and Larry's dapper suits, each character had a costume that precisely embodied their role within married life and the story as a whole.

Another noteworthy element of the musical was the set pieces, designed by the Set and Technical Director, Raidizon Mercedes. From the elaborate metal structure which framed each couple to the mobile boxes used for all furniture pieces, the set was kept simple and functional. It did not distract the audience from the complex issues at hand.

Despite the risk inherent in performing this adult material to an audience of college students, the intricate and powerful performances of each cast member allowed the plot to become one that incited empathy.

Audiences responded with laughter and applause to the uproarious musical numbers as well as to the more subtle jabs at married and middle-aged life.

These performances left audience members like freshman Holly Tice wishing that the Barnstormers put on more than one musical each year.

"It was refreshing to go to a musical instead of a play," said Tice. "I wish they put on more musicals like this one."

Lynch's film depicts the psyche

BLUE VELVET, FROM B3
Her smooth, jazzy voice draws both Jeffrey and Frank.

Lynch's surrealist style leads the viewer to question how much of the film is representative of Jeffrey's own subconscious, dream-like state. Light pinks and pale blues comprise the shots of Jeffrey's neighborhood and the time he spends with Sandy, while dark blues and reds enhance scenes involving Dorothy and Frank.

These techniques serve to juxtapose the classic good girl Sandy and the seemingly perfect suburban neighborhood in which she and Jeffrey live with the femme fatale Dorothy and the seedy life that Jeffrey is exposed to when he spends time with her. Through Dorothy, Jeffrey discovers more vulgar aspects of his personality with regards to both sex and violence. These discoveries suggest that Jeffrey is exploring his subconscious Freudian desires and behaviors.

In a critical moment in the film, Frank notes that he and Jeffrey are similar. Frank is a maniacal and absurd character; his most brutish urges and instincts are openly

apparent. He is perhaps most frightening because he represents desires that most of us choose to repress or of which we refuse to be aware.

Lynch also explores the imperfect in seemingly perfect settings. The world he portrays is at first deceptively idealistic. The dark underbelly that lies just beneath is uncovered by Jeffrey's involvement in the mystery, suggesting the utopia is frighteningly superficial and in fact similar to its opposite.

The Talks asked Lynch in an interview about his decision to portray the world in less than a perfect light.

"If you saw a film and the beginning of the film was peaceful, the middle was peaceful, and the end was peaceful – what kind of story is this? You need contrast and conflict in order to tell a story. Stories need to have dark and light, turmoil, all those things," Lynch said.

While many viewers are often shocked and greatly disturbed by the film, others enjoy speculating about the meaning and symbolism behind *Blue Velvet*. There are certainly a variety of interesting themes and

underlying meanings to deliberate.

In an interview with *Cineaste*, Lynch explains his own thoughts.

"If you could put into words the symbolic equivalent to most of my visual concepts, no one would probably want to produce my films," he said. "I don't know what a lot of things mean. I just have the feeling that they are right or not right. My work is full of abstract ideas but they are ideas I know about. My first inspiration is life, therefore everything makes sense because it is linked to life."

The beginning and end of *Blue Velvet* are particularly symbolic. The images Lynch chooses to show on either end of his film encapsulate many of the ideas he may have been trying to communicate to the viewer throughout the film. These uncanny, slightly artificial images fit well into Lynch's bizarre portrayal of the world and the events that occur in it.

Lynch has directed several films, including *Mulholland Drive*, *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man* and *Wild at Heart*. He also directed the television show *Twin Peaks*.

Editor's Picks:
What have we been watching this April?

- 1. *The Imitation Game*
directed by Morten Tyldum
- 2. *The Grand Budapest Hotel*
directed by Wes Anderson
- 3. *8 1/2*
directed by Federico Fellini
- 4. *The Theory of Everything*
directed by James Marsh
- 5. *Interstellar*
directed by Christopher Nolan
- 6. *Birdman*
directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu
- 7. *Heathers*
directed by Michael Lehmann

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CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



Is It Gettin' Hot in Here?

By Oscar Martinez



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

JohnCon unites gaming, fiction enthusiasts



Students from around Maryland got caught up playing games at the annual JohnCon.

By **TONY WU**
Staff Writer

This past weekend marked the 19th annual JohnCon, a 48-hour convention held every year on the Homewood Cam-

pus that caters to gamers and board game enthusiasts. This year's convention was packed with Pokémon tournaments, diverse panelists and gaming of all sorts.

"[The convention]

was hosted by the University's Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, Anime Club and Pen & Paper Gaming Club. JohnCon is marketed as a fun and convenient way for Hopkins students to relax and learn about the world of fiction. In addition to gaming, it offers a place for vendors to sell their figurines and game cards. The convention is free, but donations are encouraged to support future JohnCons.

The first event of the convention, laser tag, took place outside the Glass Pavilion. Because the turnout was small, three-man teams participated in each round. Though some competitors seemed shy at first, they loosened up after running around in the sun and barrel-rolling in the grass, trying to stay alive for as long as possible.

Besides the laser tag games, which occurred on each day of the convention, there were various panels

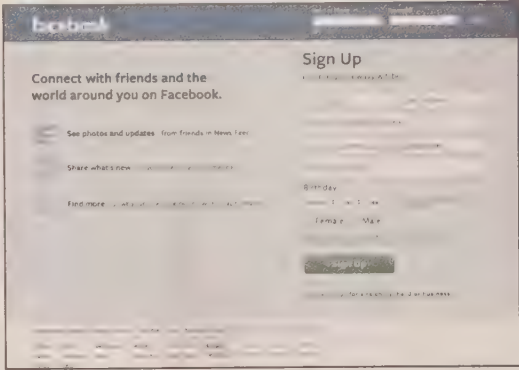
that took place in either the Sherwood Room of Levering Hall or the Arellano Theater. Topics ranged from fan fiction tips to comedy shows by +2 Comedy.

+2 Comedy is a group of stand-up comedians well-versed in the world of fiction. Mentions of *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* abounded, and even though some of the audience may not have been familiar with references to other franchises such as *Dungeons and Dragons*, the relaxed and inclusive atmosphere encouraged everyone to participate in the act. Some jokes were painfully awkward, with chuckles from the audience breaking the silence, while others, mostly about movies, were more well-received.

A major portion of the show targeted the *Hobbit* films, with the comedians and celebrity guest Dan Barnett, also known as Epic Dan, taking turns cracking jokes at the long, disappointing series. As the show approached its end, +2 Comedy sprung a surprise, offering a chance for an audience member to receive a DVD and syphilis (or rather, a plush doll of the bacteria). To get a chance at the prize, participating audience members had to risk something of their own. The comedians accepted offers as diverse as lint from a wallet to a \$20 bill, but they ended up selecting the person who offered up a

SEE JOHNCON, PAGE B8

Facebook use may be linked to depression



FACEBOOK.COM

People who use Facebook more may suffer depressive symptoms.

By **SARI AMIEL**
News & Features Editor

At some point, you've probably logged on to Facebook to check a quick fact and instead found yourself spending an hour mechanically scrolling through their News Feed. If you've felt frustrated that everyone else seems to be having a blast while you're squinting at an electronic screen, you're not alone. A recent University of Houston study revealed that the amount of time people spend on Facebook is correlated with symptoms of depression.

The study attributed this depression to the social comparisons that Facebook users engage in. Regardless of whether people reported engaging in upward social comparison — contrasting their lives with people whom they consider more popular — or downward

social comparison — contrasting with those below them in social standing — they still displayed more depressive symptoms.

According to the authors of the study, comparing one's self to others on Facebook can be more emotionally damaging than in-person social comparisons, because people tend to only post the best aspects of their lives on Facebook.

Sophomore Amanda Jan, a member of A Place to Talk (APTT), could not definitively conclude that Facebook is causing depression, but said that other factors are also responsible for feelings of depression among students.

"I think it's really difficult to say because this is the first generation that's ever had a Facebook," Jan said. "Obviously, there's a huge usage of Facebook

SEE FACEBOOK, PAGE B8

Polio virus successfully shrinks brain tumor

By **REGINA PALATINI**
Staff Writer

Injecting someone with a virus in order to cure brain cancer may sound surprising, but it also may be the cancer treatment of the future. Although still at the beginning of their research, scientists at Duke University have successfully used the polio virus to treat brain tumors.

Each year, eight out of every 100,000 persons in the United States are diagnosed with primary malignant brain tumors, representing about two percent of all cancers diagnosed. Primary brain tumors localize in the brain and rarely travel to other parts of the body.

Brain tumors that are considered "malignant" are life-threatening and invade the normal brain tissue that surrounds it, growing rapidly. Malignant brain tumors may also spread to the spine.

Brain tumors are caused by an abnormal change in the cells' genes. In most cases the cause is unknown and could have resulted from a complex set of circumstances. This change in the structure of the genetic material is thought to result from inherited genes, environmental factors or even just a random mutation.

Gliomas are specific types of tumors that occur within the brain and are the most commonly

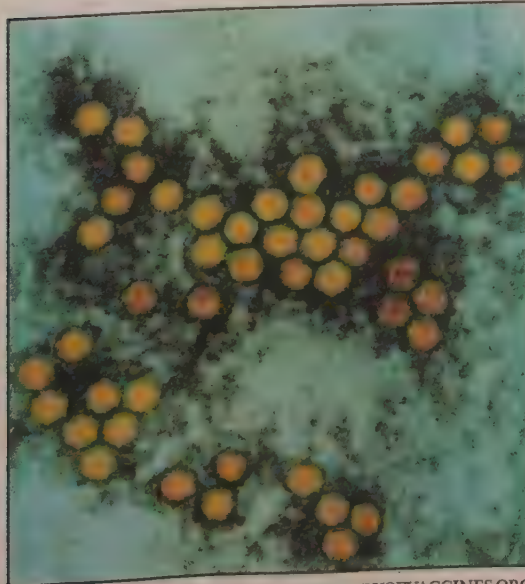
diagnosed brain tumors. These tumors are thought to arise from glial tissue, which has the role of supporting and nourishing the brain tissue. They are graded I (most optimistic outlook) to IV (most malignant) based on their microscopic appearance. The grade is indicative of their malignancy; growth rate, blood supply, presence of a necrotic center, invasive potential and similarity to normal cells are taken into account.

Glioblastomas are grade IV tumors that are highly aggressive, growing rapidly and spreading quickly to other parts of the brain. Early symptoms depend upon the region of the brain that the tumor invades. Sometimes glioblastomas are discovered only when a brain scan is done for some other unrelated reason.

These tumors are difficult to treat because they are composed of different types of cells that may or may not respond to certain types of therapies. Also, the tumors commonly contain finger-like projections, which make surgical removal particularly challenging.

Once diagnosed, brain tumors can be treated by several methods. Tumors may be removed during an open skull surgical procedure called a craniotomy; however, if the tumor is located in an inaccessible location or near critical structures, a

SEE CANCER, PAGE B8



HISTORYOFVACCINES.ORG

Scientists successfully used the polio virus on a patient's brain tumor.

Few weight-loss programs are effective, study finds

By **JESS CARNEY**
For The News-Letter

Over two-thirds of the adults in America are considered overweight or obese, and nearly two-thirds of those have reported trying to lose that weight. This desire for weight loss fuels a \$2.5 billion per year industry, but new research at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine suggests that many commercial programs may not even be very effective.

The study was led by Kimberly Gudzone, and published in the April 6 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Gudzone, an assistant professor and weight-loss specialist at the School of Medicine, conducted the study with her colleagues in order to help physicians better care for their overweight and obese patients.

Gudzone hopes that her research will give primary care doctors more information about which weight-loss programs would be better to refer their patients too.

The study considered three categories of commercial weight-loss programs: high-intensity plans, which guide participants to set goals and track progress with nutrition and exercise information, as well as counseling sessions; meal replacement plans, which substitute bars and shakes for participant's regular meals; and self-directed plans, which have participants

follow a set of guidelines independently.

Gudzone found that high-intensity programs, such as Weight Watchers and Jenny Craig, were the only programs in which participants lost more weight than the control group that dieted without the help of any program. This was a marginal advantage, however, as they only lost three to five percent more. Participants also lost some weight in the meal replacement programs, such as Medifast, but researchers noted that this was not long-term weight loss. The self-directed plans, such as the Atkins diet, on the other hand, showed no advantage over dieting without a program.

Dr. Jeanne Clark, the study co-author, points out that losing weight only confers long-term health benefits. Losing weight for a couple of months and then regaining it, is much less beneficial. This is why studies need to see if these programs not only help people lose weight, but also help them keep it off for at least 12 months.

The group reviewed nearly 4,200 studies, but considered only those which ran for 12 weeks or longer and involved randomized, controlled trials. This left them with only 39 studies covering 11 commercial weight-loss programs, and they noted that not all the research was conducted equally as well, so more



ARIZONADIABETESFOUNDATION.ORG

The authors found that programs like Jenny Craig were most effective.

would be needed.

The report stated that doctors should suggest overweight and obese patients try Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig. Other promising programs, like NutriSystem, don't yet have enough research done on them.

In addition to effectiveness, another consideration is the cost of these programs. While the high-intensity plans worked marginally better than the others, they were also the most expensive, ranging from \$570 to \$682 per month. Self-directed programs were the cheapest — and in the case of many online plans, free — while meal replacement plans fell somewhere in the middle, since they require buying bars and shakes but not paying for counseling and support.

Perhaps an even more important concern about commercial weight-loss

programs is their impact on the public perception of health. Some believe that weight-loss programs such as the ones in this study focus on losing weight quietly rather than making healthy lifestyle changes. The study itself confirms this, since many participants lost weight initially, but were unable to keep it off.

Ultimately, losing weight is difficult, because there is no easy solution, contrary to what many commercial weight-loss programs may claim. It takes hard work and dedication, but if it is motivated by wanting to be healthy rather than by just looking good, success is possible. Everyone needs to make their own decisions when it comes to health, but research such as this aims to help people make better and more informed decisions.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Comedians, fantasy writer attend JohnCon

JOHNCON, FROM B7
plaid jacket. After a brutal ten-minute quiz, during which he had to guess movie titles from their Netflix descriptions, the plaid-jacket owner took home a recording of +2 Comedy shows and the plush doll.

Compared to Sherwood and the Arellano

“Even people from MICA can hang out and share their interests.”

— EMILY FORSTER,
VICE PRESIDENT OF
JOHNCON

tournaments for Magic the Gathering, Pokémon, Super Smash Bros, and more. While some participants were very competitive, others joined in just to have fun with their friends.

The tabletop game, Warhammer 40k, was one of the more fierce events and spanned two days. The game relies on dice rolls to determine movement, attacks and saves. Prizes were handed to the winners of the tournaments, driving players to play their hardest and backstab their friends.

The last portion of the

convention featured a raffle and appearances by guests such as Danny Birt, composer, college instructor and award-winning author of *Between a Roc and a Hard Place*. Birt read some of his works to the audience and performed music pieces inspired by science fiction. During multimedia hour, Birt also played videogames with the audience, allowing fans to interact with the accomplished writer.

For those who wanted more time with guests, JohnCon offered a raffle in which an attendee won the chance to eat dinner with comedians from +2 Comedy as well as other invitees.

Junior Jerry Fang commented on JohnCon's slow start.

“[I was] disappointed since there weren't a lot of people there on the first day of the convention,” Fang said.

Forster, vice president of JohnCon, praised the event's inclusivity. “Students from Hopkins, the community around Hopkins and even people from MICA can hang out and share their interests in gaming and fiction,” she said.



WIKIMEDIA.ORG
How we spend time on Facebook influences our mood.

FACEBOOK, FROM B7
on our campus and in our generation in general. But I think that either way, whether it's caused by Facebook or not, the important thing is there is a tremendous need among our generation... for support with mental health.”

This was not the first study to tie Facebook to negative emotions.

A study conducted by the University of Missouri in February found that Facebook users tend to feel unhappy and envious when they comb through their friends' pages without liking or commenting on others' posts.

A 2013 study also revealed that Facebook makes its users feel more alienated, and it determined that the users it surveyed had similar personality traits. This outcome could not be explained by arguing that lonely people are more likely to visit Facebook.

Another study linked negative body image to time spent on Facebook. After surveying adoles-

cent girls about their use of the site, researchers found that girls who spent a lot of time looking at others' photos on Facebook tended to be unhappy with their weight. However, the researchers acknowledged that girls who are self-conscious about their appearance may be more likely to view pictures on Facebook than girls who are not.

On the other hand, not all research agrees that Facebook is making us sadder.

In July of 2009, several researchers found that the amount of Facebook use is correlated with an increase in its users' social trust, political involvement and life satisfaction. An additional study took a more quantitative approach to linking Facebook with happiness. After analyzing hundreds of millions of posts, it found that a positive Facebook post causes the number of negative posts subsequently made by one's friends to fall by a factor of two.

A negative Facebook post, however, prompts the amount of friends' positive posts to fall by only a factor of 1.3.

This suggests that positive emotions are better transferred through Facebook posts than negative ones.

Jan thinks the effect that Facebook has on users' emotions varies based on their personality, their mood and the particular posts they are looking at. She referred to the blast of statuses on college admissions as one Facebook activity that feels intimidating, but at the same time notes how Facebook can make her more politically informed.

“I'm not the kind of person who tends to go out and read articles on my own, but if [my friends] put up articles, I have a tendency to click on them and read them. Whatever way [Facebook's effect] leans tends to be based on who you

are as a person, and how you're feeling that day, before you even get on Facebook,” Jan said.

Jan explained how she would react if a student approaches her and describes symptoms of depression.

“One of the things we're taught in APTT is when someone walks into the room... you don't know anything about their history or anything if they don't tell it to you. I wouldn't first of all assume that Facebook is either correlated to or causing this student to be upset,” she said. “If it does seem to be related to Facebook, I would hope that whoever they talk to can flush it out a little more and then ask how they think they should go about things in the future if Facebook is being a negative impact on their life.”

Duke researchers use viruses to treat tumors

CANCER, FROM B7
surgical procedure may cause damage to other areas of the brain. Stereotactic radiosurgery is a technique using Cobalt-60 radiation to damage the tumor cells to the extent that they are unable to reproduce and perform their cellular activity.

Radiotherapy uses multiple treatments of radiation from linear accelerator machines. Chemotherapy employs pharmaceutical medicines to kill abnormal cells. However, many are plagued with toxic side effects so sometimes the treatment regime consists of a combination of methods.

Recently, a new, radical treatment method for brain tumors has been introduced by the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center. The idea of employing viruses to attack cancer tumors has existed for over 100 years. However, only recent advances in the application of genetic engineering to these viruses have made the practical use of this technology a reality.

Dr. Matthias Gromeier is a molecular biologist at Duke University and has been working on the application of viruses to treat cancer tumors for 25 years. He has developed a method to slightly alter the virus by removing the part of its genetic material that makes it harmful to normal cells.

Then, the virus can only make more copies

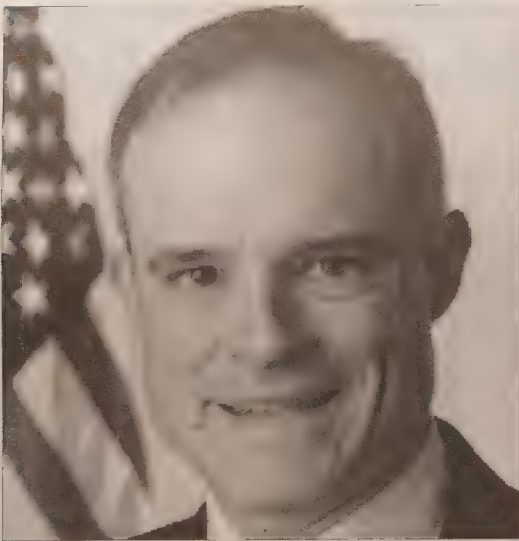
of itself using the only other cells around — the cancer cells. During this process, it kills the cancer cells and leaves the normal surrounding cells unharmed. These “oncolytic viruses” are therefore altered so they only infect and kill cancer cells.

Stephanie Lipscomb, a 23-year-old nursing student from South Carolina, was the first patient to receive a successful oncolytic virus treatment for her brain tumor. Lipscomb was diagnosed with a stage IV glioblastoma when she was 20 years old, and doctors predicted she would only have two years left to live. She underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The tumor reoccurred each time.

In 2012, Lipscomb underwent an experimental treatment at Duke University Medical Center. Doctors there injected a genetically modified polio virus directly into her brain tumor. The entire procedure took over six hours. The tumor began to shrink, disappeared and has not returned to date. There is no sign of a tumor in Lipscomb's brain now, and the word “cured” is being used by some of her doctors.

While this new treatment modality is promising, researchers at Duke caution that much more work is needed before it can become routine. For Stephanie Lipscomb, however, it is a lifesaver.

White House pushes back against cyberterrorism



WHITEHOUSE.GOV
Michael Daniel is an advisor pushing for harsher cyberattack penalties.

By BARBARA HOLT
For The News-Letter

You're working on your laptop as usual one morning, perusing your favorite social network, when your computer requests a system update. Although nothing seems out of the ordinary, one of those language pack updates you normally barely pay attention to is carrying a not-so-ordinary payload.

In the blink of an eye, your system is wrenched from your control, and a complete hard-drive wipe commences, destroying all of your most important work and personal files. An ominous red skeleton appears on your screen with a host of demands. Before you know it, all of your personal files will be shared publicly on the world wide web.

This modern-day horror story may seem distant, but company-wide attacks like this occurred just last December, tar-

getting businesses like Sony Pictures Entertainment. These attacks against American individuals and companies have not gone without response.

American intelligence agencies traced the attack's trail across the globe as it bounced from compromised computer to compromised computer until it eventually led to its source — North Korea. The question, however, isn't how to find cyber criminals, but what to do once they are caught.

In the case of the Sony attacks, any actions taken become a sensitive diplomatic move. On Jan. 2, U.S. President Barack Obama issued an executive order instructing several government agencies to take action against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Treasury Department, for example, froze any assets controlled by the American financial

system of individual officials, the DPRK and its supporters.

On April 1, Obama signed a new, more powerful executive order. This new executive order has no geographic limits and expands possible sanctions to any foreign attackers and their supporters.

“Cyber threats pose one of the most serious economic and national security challenges to the United States, and my administration is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to confront them,” Obama said in his press conference. “As we have seen in recent months, these threats can emanate from a range of sources and target our critical infrastructure, our companies and our citizens.”

The U.S. government is now authorized to freeze the assets of any identified perpetrators. Michael Daniel, the White House cybersecurity coordinator, wrote on the White House Blog, “Our focus will be on the most significant cyber threats we face — namely, on actors whose malicious activities could pose a significant threat to the national security, foreign policy, economic health, or financial stability of the United States.”

Daniel listed cyber threats that will be targeted by the government: compromising critical services in American infrastructure; disrupting computer or network availability; misappropriating funds, economic resources, trade secrets or personal information for gain; knowingly receiving said misappropri-

tions, or attempting or assisting in any of these attacks.

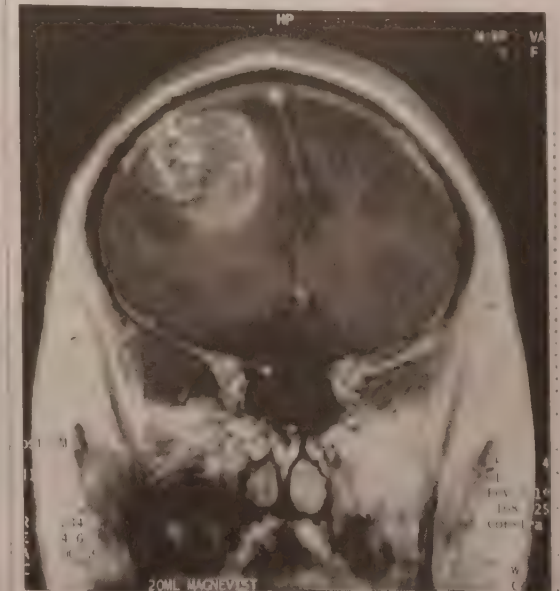
Daniel believes it is also important to note who the U.S. government is not targeting.

“These sanctions will in no way target the victims of cyber attacks, like people whose computers are unwittingly hijacked by botnets or hackers. Nor is this Order designed to prevent or interfere with the cybersecurity research community when they are working with companies to identify vulnerabilities so they can improve their cybersecurity,” Daniel said.

Looking forward, we can expect further bolstering of U.S. cyber defenses. From diplomacy engagements to trade policy to law enforcement mechanisms, the government will be taking a more severe stance against cyber and technology threats. Congress legislation is currently under works to enhance and modernize the American cybersecurity approach.

Thus, while we have been introduced to a new, modern-day horror story, we are also introduced to a new, modern-day hero. As Obama announced upon signing this new executive order:

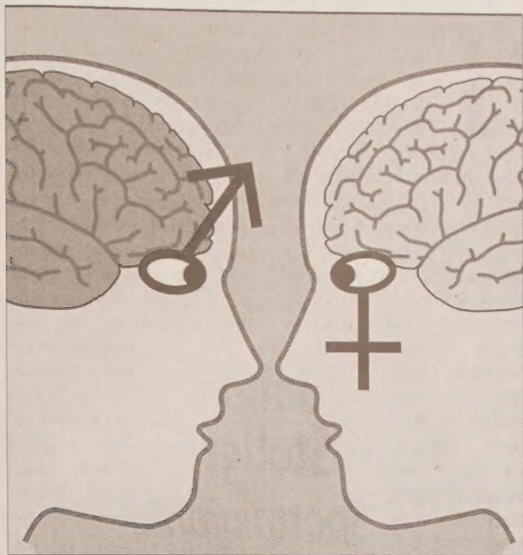
“Starting today, we're giving notice to those who pose significant threats to our security or economy by damaging our critical infrastructure, disrupting or hijacking our computer networks or stealing the trade secrets of American companies or the personal information of American citizens for profit.”



WIKIMEDIA.ORG
Glioblastomas are one of the most dangerous types of brain tumors.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Gender flexibility is possible in rat brains



AAS.ORG

Researchers injected Dnmts into female rat brains to alter the gender.

By **ELIZABETH LIU**
Staff Writer

Scientists have known for a while that male and female brains in many mammals differ in both form and function, but how they become that way is still a mystery. However, a new study published in *Nature Neuroscience* sheds some light on how gender may be determined in the brain.

Previous studies have shown that the presence or absence of androgen hormones, such as testosterone, during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy determine many of the physical characteristics of gender. Studies that examined human fetuses in the first 26 weeks of pregnancy also found differences in the brain: By using an ultrasound scanner, researchers from Israel discovered that female fetuses generally had thicker corpora callosa when compared to their male counterparts.

These physical features established before birth carry on into adulthood and could account for the differences in male and female behavior. For instance, there are many sex- and gender-related differences in levels of certain proteins found in the brain, some of which are connected to language acquisition and development. Females in some species tend to have higher expression of these proteins, and this difference could be associated with higher levels of communication among females. Researchers believed that these differences were established in a narrow, prenatal developmental time frame; however, a recent study may prove

otherwise.

Scientists from the University of Maryland School of Medicine were able to shed some light on the process of prenatal gender differentiation by successfully transforming a female rat's brain into a male rat's brain 10 days after birth, long after the time period that scientists originally believed gender differentiation occurred.

The process involved DNA methyltransferases (Dnmts), a group of enzymes that can inhibit the expression of certain genes. The inhibitors mimic effects of a drug commonly used to treat effects of menopause, estradiol. When expressed, this hormone produces masculinizing effects. A significant amount of it is found in the brains of male rats during prenatal development.

When the researchers injected Dnmts into the female rats' preoptic areas, a specific part of the brain that regulates male sexual behavior, the female rats' brains developed some of the structural characteristics of male rat brains. While their anatomies did not change, the female rats displayed sexual behavior that was more typical of males. When the animals were recorded, the researchers could not distinguish the gender of the rats by observing their behaviors, showing that gender differentiation is possible after birth.

But what does this mean for humans? By showing that gender determination can be flexible, the researchers suggest that gender differences can be epigenetically controlled. Gender and sexual orientations are not necessarily ingrained in our DNA — they are also developed through the environment in which we grow up.

Neurogenesis as treatment for drug addiction

Drug abuse is a major societal problem. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, substance abuse imparts an annual economic burden of more than \$600 billion. In particular, cocaine is a powerful stimulant that can cause severe medical consequences, such as heart attacks and strokes. Currently, there is no single medication that can treat cocaine addiction, and psychosocial therapies are often not effective in a significant population of cocaine abusers. Research into how drugs affect the brain is crucial for development of better therapies to reverse addiction and prevent relapse.

The most studied cocaine mechanism is how the drug affects the brain's reward pathway. The reward pathway is a system of neural circuitry that allows us to associate beneficial behaviors with feelings of pleasure. The neurons that are responsible for pleasure form a group called nucleus accumbens (NAC). NAC neurons are activated by a chemical called dopamine, which is released by ventral tegmental area (VTA) neurons.

Under normal conditions, the reward pathway is kept in check by the dopamine transporter, which brings back excess dopamine inside the cell. Scientists believe that cocaine produces its addictive effects by blocking these dopamine transmitters, leading to a buildup of dopamine that is responsible for the intense feelings of pleasure and euphoria.

Although the reward pathway is an attractive drug target, prevention of abuse is still preferable to treating an already formed addiction. Even if treatment is successful, almost of half of cocaine users will relapse within two and a half months. As a result, identifying risk factors for drug abuse is a critical area of research that will set the stage for strategies to prevent addiction.

Outside of the reward pathway, cocaine has been shown to induce changes in the brain's plasticity. One form of plasticity is neurogenesis (the creation of neurons), which occurs in the hippocampus even during adulthood. What is important to realize is that adult neurogenesis is an elaborate biological pathway in which neural stem cells proliferate to produce neuroblasts, which then migrate and differentiate into newborn neurons. Moreover, the newborn cells have to survive long enough to be able to integrate into preexisting circuitries. Studies have shown that administration of cocaine to rats decreases cellular proliferation in the hippocampus, whereas cocaine's effect on long-term survival is still unclear.

Regardless, these studies at least show that cocaine addiction and decreased neurogenesis appear to be correlated, suggesting a possible role of neurogenesis in the development of cocaine abuse.

To investigate the causal role of neurogenesis in

drug addiction, one study reduced hippocampal neurogenesis by exposing rats to radiation. The study found that inhibition of adult neurogenesis increased cocaine-seeking behavior and likelihood of relapse. These findings were the first to show that the manipulation of neurogenesis could be an effective strategy in preventing drug abuse behavior. More specifically, increasing neurogenesis could perhaps prevent cocaine addiction.

So far, no published study has examined this possibility. Given that there are mice genetically engineered to have more neurogenesis than normal, we can easily test the hypothesis that increasing neurogenesis may prevent cocaine abuse.

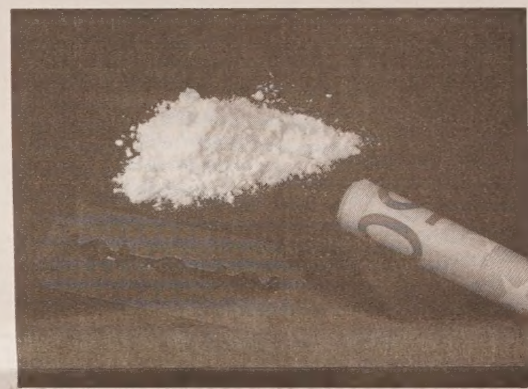
Why might a decrease in neurogenesis contribute to addiction behavior? Cocaine can rewire the brain through a variety of pathways, and a decrease in neurogenesis could represent changes in neural plasticity that reinforces addiction be-

havior. Some reports have shown that cocaine can cause neuronal loss, and thus increasing neurogenesis can boost the body's endogenous regenerative mechanism to compensate for damaged circuits. Additionally, it is known that stress can also reduce neurogenesis. Given that depressed individuals are more vulnerable to drug addiction, decreased neurogenesis might simply be a reflection of stress that puts individuals at risk for drug abuse.

Regardless of my interest in neurogenesis, I don't think that focusing only on neurogenesis will solve the drug addiction problem, given the multitude of other brain processes involved.

I envision that a future treatment might be a combination of both social counseling and medications that target multiple neuronal underpinnings of drug addiction. However, a better understanding of how neurogenesis contributes to drug abuse may lead us toward a greater insight into how neurogenesis participates in brain function.

Duy Phan The Brain Wave



INTERVENTION.ORG

Neurogenesis, altering neural plasticity, reinforces addictive behavior.

Primary visual cortex linked to action timing

By **MANISH PARANJPE**
For The News-Letter

The brain regulates nearly everything about us — homeostasis, perception and cognitive function — but how specific brain regions connect and work together is still not perfectly understood. Recently, a team at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the University of Texas-Houston uncovered a previously unknown role of the region that initiates the processing of visual input.

The brain's primary visual cortex, referred to as V1, is responsible for sensing visual information about the world around us. The primary visual cortex, located in

the occipital lobe at the back the brain, creates a map of our visual field. This map is then relayed to other areas of brain, which make decisions based on these visual clues and generate a motor response. This is the traditional or canonical view. However, a recent study conducted by Dr. Marshall Shuler and his team implicates the V1 region in more than just visual sensing.

The work, published in *Neuron*, suggests that the V1 primary visual cortex plays a role in making time-based action decisions following visual stimuli. Shuler is an assistant professor within the department of neuroscience at the School of Medicine.

In order to investigate the role of V1 in time-based action, Shuler's team used mice fitted with a special set of goggles capable of presenting a visual stimulus in the form of light and thereby stimulating the V1 region. The mice, thirsty from a lack of water, were given access to a waterspout. Water would flow from the spout at a specific time interval following a light stimulus that was presented in the goggles. Licking the waterspout in the target interval gave the mice a small amount of water as a reward. However, if they timed it incorrectly, they would receive no water.

The researchers then investigated whether mice were capable of being trained to receive the most water. That is,

could mice learn to wait and time their licks to get the most water after V1 cortex stimulation by visual cues? This allowed the researchers to test the role of the V1 cortex in making time-based action decisions.

The team found that mice could indeed be trained to receive the maximal amount of water. With increased trials, the mice gradually learned to time their licks in order to receive the greatest amount.

But this result does not relate the V1 cortex to time-based action. In order to test the role of V1 in time-based action making, they measured the activity of V1 neurons during the same waterspout activity.

Shuler and his team found that there was a "trial-by-trial correlation between the neural representation of the interval and the action" in 77 out of the 122 neurons they measured. That is, longer V1 neural firing indicated a longer delay between the visual stimulus and the mouse licking the waterspout. But this correlation was only present when mice were given a visual stimulus. In cases of a non-visual stimulus (such as nose-poke entry), there was no such correlation between

neural activity and action. This showed that the V1 region may indeed be regulating time-based action following a visual stimulus.

The researchers next tried to optogenetically stimulate V1 neurons, seeing whether it was possible to influence the mice's behavior by presenting different signals to the V1 cortex.

Optogenetics, a relatively new development in the field of neuroscience, enables researchers to stimulate genetically-altered neurons with light. Upon opto-

genetic stimulation of V1 neurons, the researchers found that he was able to change the waiting time in visually stimulated mice. Consistent with his neural activity findings, they found no change in the non-visually stimulated mice upon optogenetic perturbation.

The results suggest that the V1 primary visual cortex, traditionally thought of as being the primary visual sensory area in the brain, may actually play a far larger role in making decisions and performing time-based actions. His findings expand our traditional view of the brain as a compartmentalized organ, with each region having a specific function.

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SPORTS

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
Men's Track	Women's Tennis	Men's Lacrosse	Women's Lacrosse
April 11, 2015	April 11, 2015	April 11, 2015	April 11, 2015
@ Hopkins/Loyola Invitational	@ Washington College	vs. Penn State	@ Bucknell
3rd Place, 89 pts.	W, 7-2	W, 11-10 (2OT)	W, 16-5
Women's Track	Men's Tennis	Baseball	Baseball
April 11, 2015	April 11, 2015	April 15, 2015	April 11, 2015
@ Hopkins/Loyola Invitational	@ Haverford	vs. Gettysburg	@ Swarthmore
1st Place, 133 pts.	W, 8-1	W, 3-2	W, 9-4, W, 17-2

LeBron James lacks Jordan's competitive edge

JORDAN, FROM B12

advantages LeBron might bring to the table in terms of versatility are offset by MJ's ferocious competitiveness and clutch factor. Michael never stood down from a challenge. Once, as an up-and-comer in the league, Pacers legend Reggie Miller was talking some smack to MJ for not living up to the hype that surrounded him. Jordan proceeded to drop 40 points in the second half for a Bulls win.

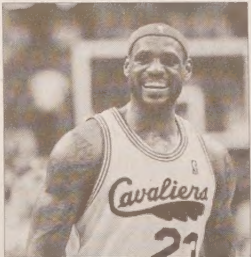
MJ was absolutely ruthless to his opponents. Famously, he once told Hornets guard Muggsy Bogues

to "Shoot it, you f***ing midget" on a crucial possession. Bogues missed the shot and later admitted that his shooting never recovered and that the single play ruined his whole career.

By contrast, LeBron frequently tweets encouraging notes to players on opposing teams. He stooped to forming a super-team with fellow superstars Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade in Miami and now Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving in Cleveland. Jordan, on the other hand, had wanted to destroy his opponents, not join them. That competitive edge is

what made him so great. LeBron doesn't have that same edge, the same burning passion that drove Jordan to such legendary clutch performances. His Airness once notably scored 38 points, including the clinching shot, in Game Five of the '97 NBA Finals while suffering from terrible food poisoning that caused him to collapse into teammate Scottie Pippen's arms after the game.

LeBron himself called his series-clinching jumper of the 2013 Finals his own "MJ moment." Unfortunately for LeBron's



WIKIPEDIA.ORG

MJ's teammates respected him, and his opponents feared him.

greatest-of-all-time case, MJ produced MJ moments routinely, like his 1998 NBA Finals Game Six steal and iconic jumper over Bryon Russell to seal his sixth NBA championship that would be the last shot (and 25th game-winner) of his Bulls career.

Jordan's legend will never be surpassed by LeBron, not because LeBron is any less physically gifted, but because he lacks the ruthless competitiveness that made Jordan such a great late-game player. No matter how many championships and individual accolades James receives with his super-teams during the rest of his career, he will never surpass Jordan's singular greatness, will to win and clutch play.

M. Track optimistic moving forward

MTRACK, FROM B12

work and excellent coaching was really on display." Shelley was upbeat and positive in spite of his injury, but he very much understood the gravity of what had happened.

"Unfortunately this will be the end of my competition season as I will be in a sling," Shelley said. "But I will be able to continue my training on a stationary

bike to come back strong next year. I'm very excited to help cheer on my teammates and push them."

In the 5000 meter dash at the Invite, the Jays picked up six points as senior Andrew Ceruzzi, freshman Louis Levine and freshman Geoffrey Kazlow finished the race in sixth, seventh and eighth places, respectively.

In the 800 meter, the Jays collected two more points from junior Trevor

Holmgren, who finished second with a time of 1:54.68.

"This week will be business as usual with everybody putting in a mix of hard workouts and technique work for their events," Shelley said. "This weekend should be another stepping stone towards the goal of bringing home another conference championship in May."

Late-inning heroics spark doubleheader sweep

By ANDREW JOHNSON

For The News-Letter

On Saturday afternoon, the Blue Jay baseball team faced Swarthmore College in a doubleheader. The first game required a late-inning rally, and the second was an offensive explosion. Both contests ultimately yielded victory.

In game one, the Jays trailed 4-1 as they entered the seventh inning. The Garnet pitching had been largely effective in limiting the Hopkins offense, but an opening walk issued to sophomore catcher Ryan Orgielewicz catalyzed the Blue Jays' rally.

Fellow sophomore outfielder Thomas Mee next sent a line drive screaming into the left field gap and slid into second with a double that positioned runners on second and third with no outs. Another walk would load the bases, and a passed ball scored Orgielewicz to close the gap to 4-2.

Another Jay sophomore, outfielder Brian Lin, smashed a double into left field, scoring Mee and sending infielder Zach Robbins to third. A fielder's choice would score Rob-

bins and level the game at four. The third double of the inning, this time by senior Craig Hoelzer, would score standout senior first baseman Colin McCarthy and make it a 5-4 contest.

In the eighth inning, Mee belted his first home run of the season as part of a five run outburst that extended the Jays' lead to five. Senior Thomas Harper pitched the final two frames for the Jays, striking out two batters and surrendering no runs to preserve the unlikely victory for Hopkins. Pitching only minutes from his hometown of Philadelphia, the standout pitcher reflected on the significance of playing close to home.

"I struggled a little bit to start the year, so I was really happy to go out and pitch well in a conference game, especially in front of a couple of family members who haven't been able to watch since high school," Harper said. "It's always great to play in Philadelphia because so many of our guys live there. It's almost a home game. I definitely think we had more fans there than Swarthmore."

Harper also thought the late-inning rally spoke



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior first baseman Colin McCarthy scored go-ahead run in game one.

to the determination and perseverance of this young but talented squad.

"It was awesome to watch our guys rally in the end of the game. I think it really speaks to our resiliency," Harper said.

No late-inning rallies were needed in the second portion of the doubleheader, as Hopkins exploded for 17 runs in a dominant offensive performance. The offensive showcase saw Hopkins tally more runs than hits, although they tallied up 15 base knocks in the victory. It was a collective team effort in this dominant performance, marked by one particular personal accolade.

Freshman infielder Mike Smith hit his first career home run in the third inning to push Hopkins to a 6-0 lead. Reflecting on this

milestone, Smith downplayed the achievement, instead emphasizing that what was most important was contributing to the success of the team and helping them win ball games.

"Hitting my first home run doesn't mean much to me," Smith said. "I'm just focused on doing my job to help the team win. Saturday, everyone was confident at the plate and taking quality swings. We stayed in our approaches and executed when we needed to."

Other standout performers in the second contest included sophomore shortstop Conor Reynolds, who finished with five runs scored and five hits and Hoelzer with three hits and three runs driven in. Senior flamethrower Jacob Enterlin pitched seven scoreless innings.

The Masters is the Mecca of pro golf

This past weekend, the 21-year-old Jordan Spieth decimated the competition en route to a four-stroke victory at the Masters Tournament. The contest, however, never seemed that close. The Texan tied a course record with a final score of 18 under par after shooting eight under on the first day to set the tone. The only other person to boast such an impressive scorecard by the fourth

Augusta is a hallowed ground where legends have formed and future icons will emerge, and it also captures the average sports fan's attention through its sheer beauty. Even people who are not avid golf fans can sit down on Championship Sunday and enjoy watching the pros finish their rounds while moving from hole to hole under the massive pines and magnolias. The course's beauty does not mean that it is undemanding. The 12th hole,

John Stoller

Sportpinion

day of Tournament play was Tiger Woods in 1997. (Woods also holds the title as the youngest player to win a Masters, with Spieth behind him). The rise of Spieth gives way to a ripe, yet unintended, potential rivalry with 25-year-old Irish phenom Rory McIlroy as well.

The new generation of stars such as Spieth, McIlroy, Jason Day, Rickie Fowler and Hideki Matsuyama brings promise to a game that seemed to be treading water after Woods's post-2009 fall from grace. Nevertheless, Augusta National Golf Club reminded us this past weekend that it has retained its place as golf's true star and that the Masters endures as America's single best pure sporting event.

The Masters marks an annual rite of spring, one that is steeped in tradition. Its preeminence as America's premier sporting event only becomes more clear when compared to its highly touted peers. The Super Bowl, for example, has turned into a national holiday through its cultural significance but has become watered down for several reasons.

The NFL's recent concussion issues and player conduct scandals have cast a shadow over a league that is generally recognized as America's most popular. Furthermore, the immense commercialization of the Super Bowl arguably outpaces even the Masters since frequent commercial breaks seem to have become a point of interest over the game itself for many.

Every other major event on the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) Tour changes scenery yearly, as does almost every other major American sporting championship. Although some would assume the fact that the Masters occurs every year at Augusta National would bore fans, quite the opposite occurs.

Augusta itself has become an institution within the sport since the first Masters in 1934, generating name recognition and earning its place in the hearts of young golfers everywhere. It remains natural for every player, from the junior level to young professionals, to dream of playing (and possibly winning) on a course where greats such as Woods, Nicklaus, Palmer and Player have competed. What Wimbledon represents for tennis and the Kentucky Derby represents for horse racing, the Masters represents for golf.

known fondly as part of Amen Corner, proves itself year after year as one of the toughest par-threes on the pro tour. This combination of difficulty and splendor demonstrates why Augusta persists as a top-five ranked course according to a bevy of golfing sources.

With such prestige and tradition comes exclusivity, both for those who are able to attend the event and in the Winner's Circle itself. Fans rely on a combination of money, connections and luck to acquire tickets. Those that have the patience can wait years on a waitlist, and others just go to ridiculous ends to find tickets because the Masters is the perhaps most difficult ticket to acquire in all of sports. Those golfers among the select few to win the Masters are rewarded with the best trophy in sports (with apologies to the Stanley Cup): the Green Jacket.

The exclusivity and quirks of Augusta pervade even into the society of champions as a Masters winner can don the jacket at his pleasure only for one year after his victory. After the year is over, he must return the jacket to the club to be worn only during Tournament weekend and the Wednesday night Masters Champions Dinner before the Thursday tee-off. The tightly knit and elite group of Masters winners earns a handful of other perks aside from the glory of winning the title. The brotherhood and mutual respect between Masters champions speaks for itself and is particularly visible during the awards ceremony where the Tournament's previous winner clothes his successor with the jacket.

The exclusivity of the Masters carries a darker past as well. The club's history is permeated by racism and misogyny as a bastion of intolerance in the Deep South. Absurdly enough, it did not admit an African-American member until 1990 (most likely under PGA pressure) or a woman until 2012. The first chairman of Augusta National, Clifford Roberts, had a reputation as a racist, presiding over a policy that persisted until the 1950s that demanded all caddies be black.

When acknowledging the Masters as America's best sporting event, one must carefully separate its bleak sociocultural history from the Tournament itself. On the basis of its elite competitors, location and golf tradition alone, the Masters still towers above any other contest.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
JOEL TINNEY — MEN'S LACROSSE

By RACHEL COOK
Sports Editor

On Saturday evening, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team faced off against Penn State University at Homewood Field. Hopkins led early, but Penn State came back strong in the second half, eventually sending the game to not one, but two overtimes.

As the second overtime was coming to a close, it looked as though neither team was going to get any more points on the board. As the clock ticked down from 10 seconds, senior Wells Stanwick swung the ball to freshman teammate Joel Tinney who gave one last effort to win the game, sending the ball past Penn State's goalie to the back of the net with seven seconds remaining in second-overtime.

Tinney's game-winning goal paired with his overall performance throughout the game earned him the title of

Athlete of the Week for *The News-Letter*.

Tinney was kind enough to answer a few questions for *The News-Letter*.

The News-Letter: What was going through your mind right before you scored the game-winning goal compared to what was going through your mind right after you scored and the game was over?

Joel Tinney: Before the shot I was just trying to stay out of Wells's way. He is our senior leader on offense, and we knew he could make the play. He ended up making the play, drawing another defender and dumping it to me, and I was able to get the shot off and get it past the goalkeeper. Afterwards, I didn't see it go in right away because there was a defender in the way, but I heard the crowd and then saw my teammates running onto the field. It was a great feeling to get a win in a game that suspenseful.

N-L: Who has been your biggest influence on the team so far your freshman year?

JT: My biggest influence has to be the seniors on my team. They come ready to work everyday and keep the team motivated to work hard everyday. Guys like Wells Stanwick and Tom Gordon really keep the locker room light when things aren't going our way and help us refocus for the next game or practice. The teammate that has pushed me the hardest has got to be Mike Pellegrino. He's a captain that is vocal and makes everyone around him work harder than they thought they could. He has helped me with my work ethic on and off the field throughout this year.

N-L: As a freshman, what do you feel is your role on the team?

JT: I wasn't really sure what my role was going to be when I got here. I was just hoping to contribute in any way possible. With the help of the coaching staff and upperclassman, I have been able to contribute during games thus far.

N-L: What are your personal goals as you move toward the second half of the season?

JT: As far as personal goals go for the remainder of the season, I just want to keep helping my team any way I can and hopefully help put us in a position to win the game, as well as continue to improve the weak areas of my game.

N-L: What do you hope to accomplish throughout the rest of your time playing lacrosse for Hopkins?

JT: The main goal, from a lacrosse standpoint, is to compete for a national championship at some point. It's one of the reasons I wanted to come here, and I think, with our players and coaching staff, we have the ability to accomplish that.

N-L: How has playing lacrosse for Hopkins impacted your overall college life?

JT: Playing lacrosse at Hopkins so far has been great. It's helped me stay busy throughout the week and has introduced me to some great friends that I will remain tight with well after college life is over.

Tinney and the rest of the Jays return to action on Saturday, April 18 at Homewood Field, playing against the University of Michigan.

Tinney rallies in double OT thriller

By NICK RAMANATHAN
Staff Writer

For the third time this season, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team went into overtime. In the previous two, the Blue Jays lost to Princeton University and the University of Virginia. This time the outcome would be different as the Jays scored with seven seconds left in second overtime to defeat Penn State University 11-10.

The Jays had the upper hand for most of the first half, at one point holding a 6-2 lead. However, in a 12-minute span late in the second quarter, Penn State went on a 5-0 run with senior Pat Manley scoring his four goals of the game, giving the Nittany Lions a 7-6 lead.

The game remained close for a while with Hopkins trailing by one goal until junior Ryan Brown and senior Wells Stanwick scored their fifth and second goals, respectively, regaining the lead for the Jays with a score of 10-9 and 87 seconds left on the clock. In just 54 seconds, however, Penn State was able to tie the game.

Neither team was able to score in the 33 seconds left in regulation, forcing the game into overtime.

Hopkins junior goalie Will Ryan, making his first career start, executed a huge save in the second overtime to give the Jays possession with less than a minute remaining. Stanwick fed the ball to freshman Joel Tinney, who completed his hat trick and won the game from about 10 yards out.

Hopkins outshot Penn State 21-12 in the opening 30 minutes and had leads of 5-1 and 6-2. Stanwick scored two goals and totaled five assists. Brown added five goals while Tinney scored three, plus two assists. Goalie Ryan saved nine, and freshman Hunter Moreland won seven out of 12 faceoffs.

Penn State's Manley led his team with four goals. Sophomore Mike Sutton added another three goals, and sophomore Nick Aponte scored

once and totaled three assists for the Nittany Lions. However, Penn State's best performance arguably came from rs sophomore goalie Connor Darcey who had 13 saves, including four in the two overtime periods.

While Hopkins was able to secure the victory, it was a bit appalling to some that the game was so close. The crowd of almost 3,000 people was "on their feet throughout the game," as one fan, sophomore Caroline Corcoran, put it.

Spectator Arthur Evanson had some strong opinions of the game.

"[Hopkins] played poorly. They should be wiping the floor with a team like Penn State," Evanson said. "People were very angry that the game even reached overtime, let alone double overtime."

Other fans had mixed reactions to the game.

"Yeah, the Jays should not have let Penn State back into the game. However, they didn't give up and fought hard," Corcoran said. "They rallied behind one another and showed their true team strength as a whole. The final play shows the overall united dynamic of the team as senior Wells passes to freshman Joel for the game winner. It was truly exciting and had the entire stadium on their feet."

"It's always good to get a win," former Hopkins varsity athlete Dan Keller said. "Lacrosse has been struggling this year, so any time we can secure the win it's a good sign for Hopkins athletics."

Although the fans may disagree on how the Jays got the win, this doesn't change the statistics. Hopkins is now 5-6 overall and 2-1 in the Big Ten. Penn State is 3-8 overall and 0-3 in the Big Ten.

The Jays will play again at Homewood Field against the University of Michigan in their Homecoming game on Saturday, April 18. A win against the Wolverines will secure a spot in the Big Ten tournament for Hopkins.

Jays' defense holds Bucknell to three second-half points

WLAX, FROM B12

do so. Bucknell added a couple of late goals to make it a 10 point game, but freshman Maggie Friel took a pass from classmate Eden Epner to close out the game at a score of 16-5.

"We've really come together as a team," Schweizer said. "Our theme this season, 'success by committee,' has really held true and helped us pull out these awesome wins."

The Jays, who rank fourth in the nation in goals against average (GAA), have made defense a focal point this season.

"Our defense is top in the nation," Schweizer said.

It may not just have been the defense that had led the Jays to the nine-game winning streak, and both Kenul and Schweizer cited the team's selflessness as the reason for the success.

"Not one person or even two or three has led to our success," the sophomore midfielder said, insisting that the reason was "every single person pushing each other harder in practice and cheering for one another."

The Jays face their biggest test of the season next week against the undefeated and No. 1-ranked University of Maryland Terrapins on Wednesday.

The Jays had experience against this Terps team when the two squads met in the fall for an exhibition match-up.

Going into the game, Kenul and Schweizer believed that the Jays have a legitimate shot of winning. "One thing we'll work on is our draw controls. This is one of the strongest points of Maryland's game," Kenul said. "If we can get an edge on them there we'll have a better chance of winning."

Schweizer also cited something well outside strategy, saying, "We've talked a lot about heart versus hype, and we want to continue playing with all heart and grit."

The Jays ultimately lost to the Terrapins, 17-9, their first loss in eight weeks.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Junior Dene DiMartino finished the day with three goals.

Two sets down, Lin leads Jays to victory

TENNIS, FROM B12

first conference match in over a decade with the score tied 4-4 and the streak in the hands of freshman Jacob Lin who was down 6-2, 4-0.

"Our captain, Tanner Brown, went up to Jacob and said, 'We need you to win this match,'" senior Edward Corty said. "Jacob's eyes widened in disbelief, realizing the match had come down to him. He then started to make every shot to come back and win in three sets to keep the streak alive."

In the wake of a ranked match loss, the team has proved mentally tough and resilient, making them well-prepared for the intensity

of postseason play. "Moments like those bring our team closer together and make us want to work harder," Corty said.

This mentality has certainly translated into confidence as shown by the recent success, but the team remains grounded.

"We're going to work hard to take things one at a time, remaining optimistic about the remainder of the season," Jou said. "Adding that pressure on opponents will hopefully help us win a national title."

Up next for the Jays is a doubleheader against Muhlenberg College and the University of Maryland Washington this Saturday starting at 11 a.m.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
The Blue Jays rallied as a team to get the victory against F&M.

Win against Wash. College secures Jays No.1 seed

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

The No. 6 Lady Jays racked up a 7-2 victory against Washington College giving the Shorewomen their first Conference loss of the season, and their second loss in total. The Jays moved on to 5-0 in Conference play and 9-3 overall.

"Washington College was a tough match. It was at their courts, and they had a lot of people out to support them," senior Shannon Herndon said. "Our players fought hard though, and despite almost every match being close, we finished with a 7-2 win, which shows the tough battle mentality our team has."

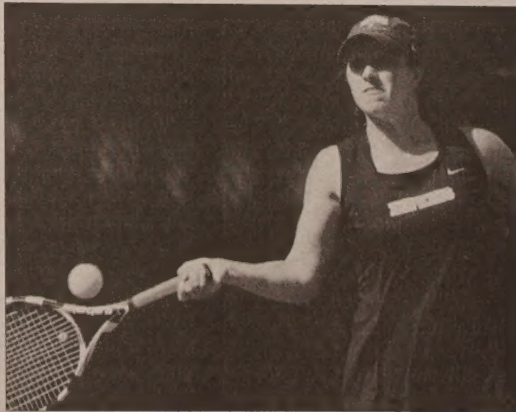
"By beating the second-ranked team in the conference, we have secured our position as number one and have gained a lot of momentum to carry us through the latter part of the season and onto the conference tournament."

Hopkins swept the doubles matches, gaining an early 3-0 lead. Herndon and sophomore Megumi Chen would begin the day with a 9-7 victory in the first-team round. In the second team, junior Olivia Kasten and freshman Caroline Greydak dominated in an 8-1 victory to give Hopkins the 2-0 lead.

Lastly, freshman Sunaina Vohra and sophomore Anna Kankanla concluded with an 8-4 win.

Kankanla would go on to win her singles match in the fifth spot by a score of 6-3, 6-1. Herndon would also win in just two sets with a 7-6, 6-2 win in the two. In the one spot, Chen would emerge victorious taking the match 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

In the three, Vohra would rebound from a 4-6 loss in the first set to take the next two with scores of 6-0 and 6-3, sealing the team's victory. Senior Shannon Libaw and Greydak would both fall in close matches that extended to three sets, giving the Shorewomen their only victories on the day.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Shannon Herndon helped carry the Jays to a 7-2 victory.

non Libaw and Greydak would both fall in close matches that extended to three sets, giving the Shorewomen their only victories on the day.

"We had a good win against Washington College last weekend," Kankala said, "A lot of us had tough matches, but we were able to pull through and play some solid tennis. As we get

closer to the conference tournament and NCAA tournament, I think we are definitely in a position to do well."

The Jays will next take the trip down to Atlanta to face Emory University this coming weekend. Other members will remain in Baltimore for an inter-conference match-up against Muhlenberg College.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Wells Stanwick was named Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week for Men's Lacrosse after a seven-point performance vs. Penn State

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Baseball vs. Ursinus, 12:30, 3:30 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. Michigan, 2 p.m.
Women's Tennis @ Emory, 10 a.m.

LeBron not in M.J.'s league quite yet

The rapidly approaching National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs and LeBron James's Cleveland Cavaliers poised for a run deep into the postseason mean ESPN and our other national media outlets will begin to once again fawn after "The King" as he seeks his third NBA title. Nothing makes my blood boil quite like people comparing James with the greatest who ever lived, Michael Jordan, as ESPN and many causal fans will be prone to do when LeBron carves up lesser talents this postseason.

There is no doubt that LeBron is a special type of player you only see once in a generation. For a multitude of reasons, though, he is not a player or competitor in Jordan's caliber. "His Airness" simply was the greatest who ever lived, and though I may be biased as a huge Bulls fan, I will try to tackle this in the fairest way possible. They played in two very different eras, so we will likely never be able to conclusively determine the winner, but it's still a fun debate to have.

Simply by the numbers and accolades up to this point in their careers, LBJ simply can't hold a candle to the man whose iconic Jumpman logo propelled Nike to the top of the

world of sporting goods. LeBron has piled up 10 All-Star selections, four MVPs, seven All-NBA selections, and five All-Defensive first team honors through his 11th season.

Jordan, meanwhile, who had taken two years in the prime of his career off to cope with the murder of his father and pursue a baseball career, had 10 All-Star teams, eight first-team All-NBA selections, seven All-Defensive first team picks, four MVPs and four Finals MVPs through 11 seasons. That's not to mention Jordan's four NBA titles at this point to James's two.

M.J. was at his best on the game's biggest stage, the NBA Finals, never losing one of his six appearances in this Holy Grail of professional basketball. Recall that LeBron was defeated in the Finals by the Spurs in '07, and his Miami Heat superteam was ignominiously knocked off by the Mavs in 2011.

One argument I hear for LeBron in this debate is that he is a more complete player than Jordan was, capable of defending anybody on the court and rebounding like a power forward. This is certainly a valid point; King James is an absolute physical specimen and capable of impacting some games with his athleticism in ways that Jordan couldn't.

However, whatever tiny SEE JORDAN, PAGE B10

Ian Gustafson
Sportpinion

Baseball takes two games on the road



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Senior starting pitcher Jakè Enterlin got plenty of support in a 17-2, game two victory, but the outcome of game one of baseball's doubleheader at Swarthmore was less assured. Tommy Mee's eighth-inning home run sealed a 9-4 victory for the Jays, and the second game's offensive explosion ensured the sweep of the Garnets.

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Sportpinion: The Masters

News-Letter columnist John Stoller argues that the Masters is the consummate American sporting event, yet it's marred by some racial and misogynistic bigotry of the past. **Page B10**

Athlete of the Week: Joel Tinney

Boucher, a sophomore track and field standout, broke the Hopkins record for the javelin at the Goucher Invitational with a throw of 53.78 meters to lead the Jays to victory. **Page B11**

Men's Lacrosse: 20T Thriller

After holding the lead for the majority of the game, Penn State came back and sent the game into not one, but two overtimes. Freshman Joel Tinney eventually came through for the Jays. **Page B11**

Three hat tricks lead the way for W. Lax at Bucknell

By ZACH JAFFE
For The News-Letter

The No. 20 Lady Jays traveled to Lewisburg, Pa. to take on the Bison of Bucknell University. They dominated play for nearly the entire game and outscored the Bison 10-3 in the second half en route to a 16-5 victory. The win, the ninth in a row for the Jays, pushed their overall record to 11-2 and gave them another quality win to push themselves into the No. 17 ranking in the country.

The Jays had an onslaught of goals at the beginning of the game and then later in the second half to dominate play throughout. Freshman Emily Kenul found classmate CeCe Finney less than three minutes into the game to open the scoring. Quickly there-

after, senior Jen Cook scored in transition after a pass from junior Kristen Cannon. Later in the first half, sophomore Haley Schweizer scored from the free position, and junior Dene' DiMartino, the team's leading scorer this season, turned the lead into four just under two minutes later.

The pace later slowed as Bison goalie Elizabeth Duswalt began to find a rhythm, but the Jays would respond late in the half. After Gretchen Richter opened the scoring for the Bison, Schweizer and freshman Shannon Fitzgerald fired right back with goals 22 seconds apart. Richter added another one to make the score 6-2 at the half. The first half was not out of the ordinary for the Jays, as five different players scored the six goals.



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Junior Dene' DiMartino netted a hat trick, as did two other Lady Jays.

"Our scoring and point distribution is so widely spread this year," said Kenul, "and it's largely due to the fact that everyone places a lot of trust in everyone else."

The point distribution would be on full display in the second half, but the main goal scorers, Schweizer, Kenul, Fitzgerald

and DiMartino, shined.

DiMartino opened the scoring 25 seconds into the second half, and the Jays poured it on from there on out, scoring three more goals in the span of 29 seconds to take a commanding 10-2 lead. "What clicked [was] definitely our offensive chemistry," said Kenul.

The three goals from Finney, junior Jenna Reifler and Fitzgerald took the energy out of the Bison, and, despite a free position goal from Emily Kookogey, the Jays had grabbed all of the momentum and the game to boot.

The Jays used their stifling defense and efficient offense to hold the Bison scoreless for 13 minutes and add five more goals to their seven-goal lead. Cannon and Kenul scored their first goals of the day and sandwiched goals from Fitzgerald, Schweizer and DiMartino, who all completed hat tricks. It was DiMartino's 22nd career hat trick.

Senior Jen Cook, who assisted on Cannon's goal to open the run, notched her 100th career point, becoming just the 18th D-I player to

SEE MTRACK, PAGE B10

SEE WLAX, PAGE B11

Despite loss, Men's Tennis holds prime playoffs spot

By SHANE COUGHLIN
Staff Writer

With the Centennial Championship only a few weeks away, the Blue Jays are on top of the heap, boasting a 5-0 record against conference opponents and a 10-6 showing overall.

The 7-2 fall at No. 10 Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) halted the six-game win streak for the Jays with seniors Tanner Brown and Jensen Reiter securing the only points for Hopkins in singles matches. Both doubles teams fell short, with sophomore Jeremy Dubin and senior Noah Joachim dropping their match by a score of 9-8. The other doubles team, composed of sophomore duo Mike Buxbaum and Emerson Walsh, ended their match with a 9-7 loss.

The well-contested matchup of ranked teams was a rare challenge for the Jays.

"From this loss we are able to see where we need to improve," junior Christopher Jou said. "Our schedule is

not filled with a lot of top teams so these tough matches are key to our success in the post season by exposing our weaknesses. Practicing serves and returns to increase those percentages will be our next emphasis to put a lot more pressure on those kind of opponents."

The Jays sit at the No. 11 spot in the current national polls after three shutouts in the first portion of the season. Still up ahead are two ranked matches against No. 19 Mary Washington and No. 25 North Carolina Wesleyan, in addition to a trio of conference matchups against Muhlenburg, Washington College and McDaniel.

Before the loss to CMU, the players were able to look back at a different kind of experience against Franklin and Marshall University (F&M) that proved to be a huge motivational turning point in the season.

On indoor courts, the Jays were close to losing their

SEE TENNIS, PAGE B11

Stiff competition for Track at home meet

By TARIQ OMER
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's track team was in action again this weekend, participating in the Hopkins/Loyola Invite. The Jays placed third overall in track and field at the home meet with a total score of 89 points. The Invite came just a week after the Goucher Invitational, where Hopkins took top honors in many major track and field competitions, eventually finishing in the top spot 50 points ahead of the second place finishers.

"Coming in, we knew that we'd be facing stiffer competition than our last

time out," freshman Zach Shelley said. "At this point in the season, scores at individual meets are more of a barometer for how the team is doing, and with this performance the team is on track to do well in the big meets at the end of the season. The whole team was very excited for the meet, and the great turnout from the school as a whole made a perfect environment for the competition."

Senior Andrew Barnett contributed to the Hopkins effort with another first-place finish in the men's pole vault, vaulting 5.00 meters (16-4.75) and earning 10 points toward the University's overall

total. Freshmen Alex Kosack finished third in the pole vault with 3.96 meters (12-11.75), and senior Paul Vozzo added to the tally from sixth.

Shelley, who usually competes in sprints and hurdles, was looking forward to helping his team to victory but was not able to continue in the competition after an injury he sustained mid-event.

"I broke my collarbone after striking a hurdle and was unable to finish the competition," Shelley said. "The team as a whole did wonderfully with a large number of wins and successful runs — the combination of hard